THE

FARMERS MAGAZINE:

MONDAY, JANUARY 12. 1801.

(N°. V.)

PART I.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

Thoughts on Various Subjects.

THE high price of provisions, and particularly of bread corn, for some years past, in Britain, has not only produced a great deal of real distress among the middling and lower ranks of people, but an officiousness in the endeavour to obviate the consequences to trade and manufacture, that, if not duly regulated by the State, may be attended with effects fatal to the country and nation. Sir James Stewart, in his Essay on the Principles of Political Economy, and Dr Adam Smith, in his Essay on the Causes of the Wealth of Nations, have clearly and familiarly explained the principles on which prices of every kind of goods depend. The particular subject relative to corn was ably discussed by another gentleman of the name of Smith, in the years 1765-6, when the consideration of dearth was before an open committee of the House of Commons. And the writer of the introduction to the Agricultural Reports, in your last Magazine, has very properly guarded the uninformed public against the prejudi-

ces formed concerning this subject. Several papers to the same useful purpose have been circulated in England; but the letters of the Duke of Portland to the Mayor of Nottingham, and to the Duke of Marlborough, as Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, have probably made a greater impression than any other, as coming from the department of administration; these letters have been evidently composed by Lord Liverpool, or some man of real knowledge and experience in political economy. The real jib of the business, however, lies much deeper, and may be properly considered in the following manner. The mercantile and manufacturing interest in Britain having, for more than half a century past, taken the lead in the nation, every method has been used to keep down the prices of the immediate necessaries of life, and to keep the prices of labour as low as possible; *but the immense and sudden increase of the circulating medium of wealth in Britain, since the commencement of the fatal American war, and still more by the present war of the French Revolution*, has so much depreciated the value of the signs of wealth, that no invention could obviate the prices of bread-corn, and the other immediate necessaries of life, from coming to the general level of other commodities, while the rewards of labour not being regulated systematically, by their relation to the fluctuating prices of provisions, a great present inconvenience has arisen, and a great complaint. If two succeeding crops in Britain have been a third and a fourth part deficient, as has been said, then the prices to the grower ought to be proportionally increased, but what exceeds their price, must be imputed *to the depreciation of money*. Beef and mutton are now 5d. and 6d. per pound, formerly 2½d. and 3d. per pound, and bread is not more than proportionally dear, even at its present high rate, if the deficiency (particularly) of crop, be taken into consideration. Corn, and even rice, are bulky articles, which, if brought from foreign markets, cannot be sold in Britain cheaper than the growth of our own country; and if complaints among the people are to be removed on just political principles, it can only be by the legal establishment of a proportion between work performed; and wages of labour bestowed, a matter of considerable difficulty to arrange, without disturbing the operations of political economy, and perhaps the peace of society.

If the wages of labour are rendered adequate to the depreciation of the circulating medium, all cause of murmur would or ought to be removed from among the middling and lower class of people; and, as almost every species of labour

is capable of being rendered piece-work, tables of the wages of labour might certainly be legally and justly formed, to regulate them according to existing circumstances: But do what we will in Britain, I am afraid, the great load of public debt, and consequent depreciation of the value of money, must gradually strip us of our markets for goods of home-manufacture, and bring foreign nations into competition with us in all our departments. I am also of opinion, that the late tax on income has already had a great effect to diminish the capital of country gentlemen and others, who used to employ many of the poorer class, who could not make their way by piece-work, but were succoured and kept off the poors rates by proper employment suited to their abilities. I flatter myself, from the papers of the Duke of Portland, that Parliament, or rather Ministers, are not inclined to use any empirical and arbitrary means of remedying the present uneasiness among the people; for, if they do, I am persuaded the whole system of public policy would be convulsed, and finally destroyed.

There are at present above half a million of unproductive citizens,—or subjects, I should rather say,—of Britain, in the two Islands, which, being about an eighth of the whole adults in the kingdom, and thrice as many, at least, as the nation can afford to maintain in that situation; so that I am perfectly convinced, upon undeniable principles of policy, that this, with the combination of circumstances to which I have alluded, must very soon produce consequences that are past all calculation of evil.

Are not the poors rates a great means of decreasing the industry and economy of the lower ranks, and would not benefit-societies for widows and orphans, under legal authority, be a means of obviating this growing evil, and of increasing laudable industry?

Is not the great increase of distress among the lower ranks, in a great degree, owing to the immense demand for butchers meat, which has so universally increased the expence of maintenance, and thrown so much more land into pasture? Is it not probable, also, notwithstanding the calculation of *Price*, the political arithmetician, that the population of Britain has increased, within these 30 or 40 years; as it seems pretty well ascertained that it has done so in Scotland, from the comparison between Webster's Reports and those given in to Sir John Sinclair?

Upon the whole, I am of opinion, that encouragement held forth to the cultivators of land, and the cultivation especially

of new lands, waste, or held in common, the protection of markets, and dealers of every description, and the promotion of superior industry and *economy*, are the only probable means of averting the present impending danger arising from the present high prices of the necessaries of life in Great Britain.

Nov. 2. B.——

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following communication, upon a very important subject, was put into my hand by Sir John Sinclair, with a request that it might be inserted in the next number of your Magazine. The present attempt, it is to be hoped, is the dawning of a system, that promises advantages of the first magnitude to the agriculture of the north of Scotland. Mr Trail, the sheriff of Caithness, who drew up the Resolutions; and the gentlemen of that county, seem to have just views of the subject, and to be actuated by that spirit which alone can insure success to any plan that can be proposed, either for rectifying existing abuses, or introducing valuable improvements; it were to be wished, that the same spirit pervaded the gentlemen of every other district in the kingdom; the obstinacy and ignorance of tenants would then no longer be mentioned as a bar to improvements. I am, &c.

A. Z.

RESOLUTIONS of the County of CAITHNESS, regarding the casting of Feal & Divot, Winter Herding, *&c.*

At Wick, the 30th day of September 1800,

At a Meeting of the Heritors of the County of Caithness.

Present.

Sir JOHN SINCLAIR of Ulbster, Bart. WILLIAM SINCLAIR, Esq; Freswick.
JAMES TRAIL, Esq; of Hobbister. JOHN HORNE, Esq; of Stircock.
J. CAMPB. SUTHERLAND, Esq; Forse. GEORGE SUTHERLAND, Esq; Brabster.
JOHN SINCLAIR, Esq; of Barrock. DAVID BRODIE, Esq; of Hopeville.
JAMES SINCLAIR, Esq; of Forse. JOHN GORDON, Esq; of Swinzie.

Sir JOHN SINCLAIR was chosen Preses.

THERE was read to the Meeting, a Letter from James Trail, Esq; addressed to the Heritors of the County, on the means of promoting the Agri ultural Interests of the County, accompanied with Resolutions drawn up by him, for the purpose of enforcing the same. The Meeting, having considered the same, are unanimously of opinion, That the measures suggested by the said James Trail, Esq; are entitled to their warmest approbation and support. The said Resolutions having been immediately subscribed by the Heritors present, it was resolved, that the said Letter and Resolutions be printed at the expence of the subscribers, and that Mr Trail be requested to circulate the same

The Meeting then unanimously resolved to return their thanks to Mr Trail, for having brought forward so useful a measure, and for his uniform attention to promote the interests and improvement of the county. JOHN SINCLAIR.

LETTER addressed to the Heritors of the County of CAITHNESS, by JAMES TRAIL, Esq; Sheriff of the County.

Gentlemen,

THE practice which has so long prevailed in this County, of cutting up the Surface of the Commons and Outfield-grounds, for turf, feal, and divot, and the shameful devastation that has been the consequence thereof, cannot have escaped the observation of any of you.

It is a great and a growing evil: For as no means are used for restoring the surface thus pillaged, and as nature does not supply the waste, you must at once perceive, that the unavoidable consequence of persisting in this practice, must be the ultimate destruction of all the outfield and common pasture grounds, in order to support that small proportion of the soil now under tillage.

It surely deserves consideration, whether a practice, so destructive to the surface of the country, and so hostile to every scheme of future improvement, is it itself necessary; or whether, in some degree, at least, it does not derive its support from the mere sanction of established usage, and from a slovenly system of management. Some of you may recollect, that last year this subject was brought forward at a public meeting of the gentlemen of this county. Its importance was universally admitted; and the remedy then suggested, and a-

dopted, was, by application to the Highland Society, to take it up as a matter of general interest to the Highlands of Scotland. Although I did not disapprove of that measure, yet it then occured to me, that we were taking a very circuitous way of obtaining the end; for that, if we were really serious in the business, we had much in our own power, without legislative interference. I believe the matter was considered in the same view by that respectable and public-spirited body: and, therefore, it now rests with you, to say, whether the idea shall drop here; or if you will show yourselves in earnest on the subject of last year's resolusions, by taking such means as are within your reach, for the accomplishment of the object.

That those means, if judiciously taken, and steadily pursued, will prove effectual, I cannot entertain a doubt. But as I conceive the first step towards a cure, to be a thorough conviction of the certainty and reality of the evil: and as many persons, who are in other respects enemies to the practice, may conceive it to be justifiable, upon the argument of necessity; it may not be improper to offer a few considerations upon that subject.

The necessity of the practice, then, will best appear, by considering, in the *first* place, What advantages are derived from the present system. *2dly*, Whether these advantages can be obtained by other and less unexceptionable means: And, *lastly*, If they cannot, how far it may nevertheless be expeient to *abolish or restrain the usage*, as one which, under the semblence of *present benefit*, is imperceptibly cutting off the possibility of *future improvement.*

1*st*, then, In considering the advantages or conveniencies derived from the present system, it will be proper to remark the several uses to which these depredations upon the commons are applied; these are, Fuel, Buildings, and Manure.—Fuel is unquestionably to be considered as one of the necessaries of life. Easy access to it, is to every farmer a matter of very essential consequence. But as mosses every where abound in this county, and seldom at any great distance from the cultivated grounds, it appears no great hardship to restrain the tenantry to the use of moss for fuel. The cutting up of turf, or spade-peats, from the clay or earthen surfaces of the pasturage, is surely no matter of necessity, but merely a system of slovenly economy, to save a more distant carriage.

To the tenant this is a matter of little importance, as his

interest in the lands is but temporary; and when he has pillaged the whole surface of the common surrounding his present farm, he has only to remove to another, and repeat the same theft; but to the landlord, who has a permanent interest in the preservation of his property from waste, it is a most serious evil.

Secondly, as to the use of feal and divot for buildings, there is more difficulty; for, in the present state of population in this country, the expence of erecting buildings of stone, covered with slate for the accommodation of all the tenants and cottagers, would be altogether insupportable. I am therefore inclined to think, that the use of feal and divot for buildings must be submitted to, under a limited extent, until, by the gradual and progressive improvement of farm houses, it shall become less necessary.

But, farther, with respect to *manure*, the chief purpose for which the surface of the ground is cut up; it is clear, that this is not to be justified upon the principal of necessity, because, in every county where improvement has been carried to any extent, it is altogether unknown; and in many of the best cultivated farms even of this county, it has been long laid aside. And permit me to add, that the abolition of it, however harsh it may be to old-fashioned Farmers, will necessarily introduce a system of management more beneficial both to themselves and their Landlords. The want of feal for manure, will constrain them to resort to other means of supplying the defect. They will soon discover the necessity and advantage of housing their horses and cattle in the night-time, by which means an infinite saving will be made in the loss of stock, to which the present system is subject.

This necessity, again, of housing their stock, will irresistibly lead them to try every means of increasing the quantity of provender, by the cultivation of turnips and artificial grasses.

This idea, to many, may appear chimerical; and certainly to farmers, who are rivetted in ancient prejudices, it will appear in no other light. But, with confidence, I submit it to the judgement of every gentleman acquainted with the state of husbandry in this county, whether the losses sustained in the death of horses and cattle alone, by bad management, and especially by colds contracted in the autumnal season, does not amount to a very heavy charge upon the present system.

The Tenants may tell you, they cannot afford to sow grass-seeds: They must cultivate grain alone as the means of en-

abling them to pay their rents. The obvious answer is, that the system recommended will be found to save the money which they continually expend in renewing their *stock*, and of course enable them to pay their rents with more facility. —But.

3*dly*, Even if it were otherwise; if it should be necessary to add some encouragement to induce the tenantry to break off the present system, and to adopt the one recommended; it certainly will be much for the advantage of the Landlords to enforce it, even at this expence.

They will presently see their estates rise in value from an improved cultivation, and the ultimate benefit is incalculable. Those very wastes, which are now preyed upon as the means of supporting an erroneous system, will soon be brought into tillage themselves. The farmers, having thrown a considerable portion of their good arable land into grass, and having by that means, and by the housing of their cattle, greatly increased their stock of manure, will find themselves in a situation to improve from the commons; and thus their disposition to enlarge the field of their arable land, will be exerted to the mutual benefit of themselves and their Landlords. Thus it is that in a system of good husbandry, the different parts are mutually subservient to each other, and all of them conspire in promoting general improvement; whereas, in one that is imperfect, some *great* and *necessary sacrifice* is continually made for upholding it.

I trust it will not appear presumptuous in me to have solicited the attention of the Gentlemen of this County to an object of such magnitude, and that I shall be acquitted of any other motive in the business, but a desire to promote their benefit, and the general improvement of the country.

Intimately and essentially connected with the subject of which I have been treating, is the necessity of enforcing Winter Herding.

My ideas of both I have taken the liberty of throwing together, in the shape of Resolutions, for the consideration of the Gentlemen of the County, together with a resolution regarding petty thefts on the property of the Farmer, the propriety of punishing which requires not to be dwelt on: and if any of the hints thrown out, shall, under their correction and patronage, become the means of advancing the interests of agriculture amongst us, I shall find abundant gratification.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servant,

JAMES TRAIL.

Caithness, 29th Sept. 1800.

WICK, 30*th September* 1800.

RESOLUTIONS of a Society instituted for promoting the Agricultural Interests of the County of Caithness.

THE under-subscribing heritors of the county of Caithness, having taken into their serious consideration the State of Agriculture in the said county, and being solicitous to remove every obstacle that retards its improvement, or discourages cultivation and industry therein, have come to the following Resolutions:

1*mo*, That the continued ravages which are made upon the common or outfield pastures, for the purpose of supplying turf, feal, and divot, are an intolerable abuse, which it behoves every proprietor, looking to the interest of his own posterity, or the future improvement of the country, to correct and restrain by every means in his power.

2*do*, That the establishment of winter-herding is essential to every scheme of improved husbandry, being the only means whereby sown grass and green crops can be preserved in an open country.

3*tio*, That petty thefts; in particular, the stealing of grain, straw, grass, hay, turnips, potatoes, and other agricultural productions; also cattle, sheep, and other stock; are so prejudicial to the interest of the Farmer, and of the Public, that every exertion should be made, by rewards and otherwise, to find out the perpetrators of such crimes, and to have them punished in the most exemplary manner.

4*to*, That in conformity with the aforesaid general resolutions, the subscribing Proprietors do form themselves into a Society for the purpose of regulating the use and consumption of turf, feal, and divot, upon their estates, establishing and enforcing winter-herding, and for defraying the expence of prosecuting offenders against the property of the Farmer.

5*to*, That the use of turf for fuel, and feals for manure, be prohibited in the strictest manner, excepting within the precincts of the mosses, the limits of which are to be parti-

cularly marked out, to prevent any misapprehension on that head.

6*to*, That the use of feal and divot, for buildings, be permitted, in as far only as may be absolutely necessary, and that every means be adopted to prevent the abuse of it; and, in particular, that no feals or divots be cut, even for buildings, without a special permission in writing from the Proprietor or his factor, expressing the number allowed, and the ground from which they may be taken.

7*mo*, That where any ground is possessed in common betwixt contiguous heritors, both parties do abstain from the use of feal and divot upon such commons, until they shall be divided.

8*vo*, That every possible encouragement be held out for the improvement and cultivation of the waste grounds, by assigning suitable portions thereof to such of the tenants in the neighbourhood as are willing to undertake the improvement of them, agreeable to a plan to be laid down by the landlord, and by rewarding the industry of the tenant, by gratuitous leases of such lands, or otherwise, as may be found most expedient.

9*no*, That, in order more effectually to establish and enforce winter-herding, each township or other convenient district be required, at their joint expence, to support and maintain a common herd, each individual tenant or cottager paying in proportion to his rent.

10*mo*, That, under the care of such common herd, the horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, belonging to the township or district, may be kept upon the outfield pasturage during the day-time, but are not to be suffered to go loose within town-dikes at any season of the year.

11*mo*, That cattle or horses intended to be left upon the common or outfield pasturage during the night, be either folded, or drove to such a distance from the towns, as to secure against any trespass; and that no sheep or swine be kept in the open fields during the night, in any case whatever.

12*mo*, That, in order the more effectually to enforce these Regulations, and, at the same time, to draw the obvious advantages from them, it be made a stipulation in every agreement betwixt heritor and tenant, that the latter shall sow a certain proportion of his arable land, not less than one-twentieth part, with grass-seeds; and, for his encouragement to comply with this measure, the proprietor shall provide the

necessary supply of hay-seeds from the best markets, to be given out to the tenants at prime-cost, upon twelve month's credit; and, in case the tenant cannot find a suitable market for his hay, the proprietor shall be bound to take all he chooses to dispense with, not exceeding the produce of the land which is to be sown out, in conformity with this regulation, at the rate of 4d. per stone; it being nevertheless optional to the tenant to keep it, or dispose of it otherwise, if he shall so incline.

13*tio*, That the whole of the aforesaid regulations be enforced from and after the term of Whitsunday next; and, for that purpose, that repeated publication be made of these resolutions at the several parish-churches of the county, so as to afford to the tenants and cottagers an opportunity of receiving further information from their landlords with regard to the spirit and tendency of the measures recommended.

14*to*, That the Society, or as many of its Members as conveniently can, do meet at Thurso upon the first Monday of May next, and thereafter upon the first Monday of each month, for the purpose of enforcing these and such other regulations as they may think it expedient to issue from time to time, for carrying the general resolutions into effect, and to receive such information, by way of complaint, or otherwise, as may be brought before them, touching any matter or thing done contrary thereto; which informations, when duly verified, shall be entered into a book to be kept for that purpose, with the name and designation of the offender, in order to prosecution, or that he may be otherwise dealt with, according to circumstances; and that they appoint a public prosecutor, to institute such processes as they may direct, before the ordinary civil or criminal courts.

15*to*, That whatever difficulties the Society may have to encounter in carrying these measures into effect, from prejudices and confirmed habits; yet being, on the most mature consideration, fully convinced of the general expediency of the plan, and of the great advantages which both to landlords and tenants, will be derived from a firm and steady perseverance in it, they resolve, and pledge themselves to each other, and to the public, that they will rigidly adhere to the principles of it; and, in particular, that they will grant no written or verbal leases of their lands to any tenants, which shall not specifically bind them to a compliance with all and each of the aforesaid conditions: and when any individual is marked in the books of the Society, or otherwise convicted

of a wilful breach of any of them, the proprietor, being a Member of this Society, shall be bound, in honour, to remove such person from his estate at the first term; and no other member of the association shall receive him, as a tenant or indweller upon his property, for the space of three years after such removal.

FOR THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

Thoughts on Leases.

It is frequently disputed, whether a farmer ought to be restricted to specific crops, and a certain mode of cultivating his farm, or left to manage it according to his own discretion, and be only bound not to deteriorate the ground. This must vary according to the advancement of improvements, and the knowledge and dispositions of the farmers in that part of the country where the lands lie. The writer of this paper hath often discovered, from observation and experience, that the common farmers in the West of Scotland are generally unacquainted with theoretical knowledge of farming; and, from hard labour, straitened circumstances, and contracted prejudices, they only move and perform as they are impelled, like a machine or implement of husbandry. To rouse the farmers to activity, to better their circumstances, to make improvements popular, &c. landed gentlemen should let out their farms at a moderate rent for the first nine or ten years, and take the tenant strictly bound by his tack, to manure, labour, and sow such kinds of grain on certain fields in certain years, and the rent to rise at fixed periods during the tack. Thus the tenant would be enabled to bring the farm into a proper condition for bearing crops;—would be sensible of the advantage gained;—the master would have his land meliorated; and, afterwards, the tenant would be capable to pay larger rents, and thereby both master and tenant would be profited—more grain brought into the market—and a double or triple quantity being raised, provisions might sell at a cheaper rate, and the farmer still a gainer. The cultivation and manuring would quicken the dormant earth; and the advantage reaped by the farmer would cause him think, and bring him into exertion and activity; more workmen might be employed, and the industrious poor better provided for.

When once the farmer became skilled in, and favourable to, improvements and rotation of crops, he might then be left, in a great measure, to manage his farm in the way and manner which he found by experience to be most beneficial, and best adapted to the nature of the soil. By West country farmers, even where the soil is deep and strong, the farm divided and subdivided with ditch and hedge, and near to manure, little more is done than spreading from sixty to eighty bolls of slaked lime on each acre, before breaking up, sowing the same for two years with oats, and the third either with oats or barley and grass seeds, laying on what dung happens to be in the dung-hill at the time, taking one crop of hay, and afterwards letting it rest five or eight years in pasture. Rotation of different crops, fallowing, summer working, making and using compost, straightening ridges, draining, irrigation, &c. West country farmers account foolish and unprofitable. Were a certain mode of cultivation laid down in their tacks, and these rules strictly enforced, the advantage and gain arising from an approved mode would open their eyes, set their genius to work, and give an ardency for information and agricultural improvements: They would thereby be instructed in the art and principles of husbandry as a professional business, and daily practice would check errors and false flights of fancy. In order to gain that end, the master or his factor should have a thorough knowledge of farming, or consult intelligent farmers, visit the farm to be let in lease, consider the condition it is to be left in by the outgoing tenant, the nature, powers, and qualities of the soil, its situation for water, roads, markets, and manures; then prepare a plain concise tack, with a comprehensive table of cultivation. Thus the tenant, with little education and trouble, would, with a glance, see in what condition each inclosure must be, and mismanagement and law-suits, which often take place through ignorance of the tack, prevented. The form of a tack and table, which, in the writer's opinion, would answer the end, is here annexed. The table, however, must vary always according to the condition of, and agreed mode of cultivation suitable for, the farm.

Ayrshire, 23d June 1800. J. W.

Form of the Tack.

It is *contracted* and *agreed, between* A. B., heritable proprietor of the lands and others after-mentioned, *on the one part, and* C. D. in —— *on the other part*, as follows: The said A. B., upon the terms after specified, *sets* and *lets* to the said C. D., and his heirs, secluding assignees, legal or voluntary, and subtenants, except with the master's consent in writing, *all* and *whole* (here insert the name, extent, and boundaries of the farm) for eighteen years, commencing for the crop and year 1801, *reserving* to the master, and his successors, full power to try for, work, manufacture, and carry away, lime, coal, stone, marl, metals, minerals, fossils, and manures of every description in the said lands, to erect necessary buildings and machinery for that purpose, to set off, enclose and plant verges, belts, clumps, angles and braes, fence and enclose the same, plant trees alongst the fences and around the yards of the farm, to repair or straighten old roads, and to make and use new roads, and to dig for and take gravel and stones for the same, and to make exchanges of parts of the said lands for other parts of adjacent farms, for straightening dikes and marches, or rendering enclosures more commodious, the tenant getting allowance from his rents for the ground which he may thereby be deprived of, or paying the master for the additional ground the tenant may acquire by exchanges, in proportion to the rents and value thereof, as the same shall be ascertained by two skilful men, to be mutually chosen by the parties; *declaring* always, that, upon the bankruptcy of the said C. D., this lease shall instantly expire; nor shall it thereafter be in the power of the said C. D., directly or indirectly, to continue his possession, either by himself, or by a manager, factor, or overseer, for behoof of his creditors; *also declaring*, that heirs-portioners shall have no right of succession in this lease, the eldest daughter always succeeding without division; notwithstanding whereof, the said C. D. shall have power and liberty to appoint *any one* of his children, whether *son* or *daughter*, to succeed to him in this lease; *and* with and under the above-mentioned reservations, and with and under the conditions and obligations incumbent on the tenant, the said A. B. *obliges* himself, and his successors, *to warrant* this tack at all hands, according to law: *For*

which causes, the said C. D. *binds* and *obliges* himself, his heirs, executors, and successors, to fulfil the whole obligations incumbent on the tenant by this tack; *and to pay* to the said A. B., and his heirs or assignees, or to his or their factor or cashier, for his or their behoof, the sum of L. Sterling, for the first years, the sum of L. Sterling for the years, and the sum of Sterling, of fixed silver rent, yearly, during the remainder of the tack, at Lammas and Candlemas equally; beginning the first year's payment at Lammas 1801, and Candlemas thereafter, by equal portions, for the crop and year 1801, with interest of the said rent after the same falls due till payment (here insert any thing to be paid in kind to the master, astriction to the mill, if any be, public burdens, making drains, drawing, weeding, or cutting dikes, and generally whatever the tenant is to pay or perform in kind). *Further*, the said C. D. *binds* and *obliges* himself, and his foresaids, to manage and cultivate, in a husband-like manner, the said farm and lands, according to a particular table or mode of cultivating the said farm, signed by the said A. B. and C. D., of this date, as relative hereto, which is here held as particularly engrossed *brevitatis causa*: *And* it is hereby specially *provided, declared*, and *agreed* to, that if the said C. D. shall, at any time, contravene or fail to have the said farm, or any part thereof, manured, laboured, and in crops specified in said table, whereby the same is infringed, in whole or in part, it shall, in the option of the master, be an *ipso facto* irritancy of this lease; *and* he shall, in that case, have full power and liberty, by a charge hereon, or by an application to the judge-ordinary, and without any other declarator, summarily to remove and eject the tenant from the said farm and lands, without any allowance, claim, or recourse whatever, to the tenant; *otherwise* the tenant shall be *bound* and *obliged to pay* to the said A. B., or his foresaids, an additional silver rent of pounds Sterling for the whole foresaid lands, besides the fixed rents above mentioned; which additional rent shall not be penal, but *bona fide* conventional. Further, the tenant is to eat and consume on the said lands the whole straw and fodder of the grains thereof, and to collect and preserve, in proper dung-steads, the last year of the tack, the whole dung and fulzie of the said lands, and leave the same for the use of the proprietor or incoming tenant, without any allowance whatever, and shall not, at any time during the tack, overstock the pasture-grass with cattle; *also*, not to

keep any sheep or lambs on the said farm, otherwise to pay the master, and his foresaids, shillings for each sheep or lamb which shall be found thereon, and for each time of additional rent, besides damages thereby incurred; *and* he hereby accepts of the houses, dikes, and fences, upon the said farm, in their present condition, *and obliges* himself to put the same in proper repair; and to keep the whole houses, dikes, fences, gates, and gate-posts, during the tack, and leave the same, at his removal therefrom, in sufficient, tenantable, and fencible condition, he having, nevertheless, recourse upon the proprietors and tenants of adjoining lands for half of the expence of march-dikes. *And further*, the said C. D. *obliges* himself and his foresaids, to flit and remove themselves, with their wives, families, tenants, cottars, and dependants, and all their goods and gear, furth and from the arable lands of the said farm, at Martinmas 1818, from the yards at Candlemas thereafter, and from the pasturage and houses on the twelfth of May thereafter, without warning, overgiving, charge or process of removing, and excluding tacit relocation, *otherwise to pay* to the said A. B. and his foresaids, pounds Sterling of additional rent for each year, or part of a year, that the tenant or his foresaids shall possess the same after the expiry of the terms of removal, without a new agreement in writing with the master, and without prejudice to his removing the tenant as accords: *Declaring*, that the stocking on the said lands shall be always hypothecated for both fixed and additional rents, damages, and expences, if incurred: *And, lastly*, both parties *bind* and *oblige* themselves, and their foresaids, to fulfil and implement their respective parts of the premises to each other, under the penalty of Sterling, to be paid by the party failing to the party observing, or willing to observe the same, besides performance: *and they consent to the registration hereof*, and of the said table or mode of cultivation, in the books of council and session, or others competent, that letters of horning on six days, and other legal execution necessary may pass hereon in form as effeirs; and, for that purpose, they *constitute* their procurators, &c. In witness whereof, these presents, written on this and the preceding pages of stamped paper, by *are subscribed*, with a duplicate hereof, and duplicates of the table above referred to, all of this date, and relative hereto by the said A. B. and C. D. at this day of in the year eighteen hundred, before these witnesses.

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

On TYTHES.

GENTLEMEN,

WHILE I am fincerely disposed to pay respectful attention to the ingenious remarks of your correspondent, *A Scots Farmer*, page 396 of first volume, I can by no means admit that he takes up the subject in a proper manner. Without entering, however, upon the main question, *viz.* the general expediency of Tythes, which would lead me into a wide field, I propose to offer a few cursory observations upon what is said respecting the manner in which this public burden affects the interest of the several parties.

First, The interest of proprietors is affected by the payment of tythes to a greater degree than the extent of the burden itself. This is allowed by your correspondent, who attributes the deficiency of rent solely to the harrassing and disagreeable circumstances attending a collection in kind. He is here so far in the right; but this loss is trifling when compared with that sustained from the damp cast upon improvements by the operation of this tax. It is in this point of view that proprietors are principally concerned in the abolishment of tythes; or in other words, having them commuted into money, agreeable to their ascertained value.

Secondly, It would undoubtedly give surprise to many of your readers, to see the clergy ranked as the party most interested in having tythes abolished; and yet, from actual observation, I am convinced your correspondent is correct. I must, however, call to his remembrance, that a very large proportion of tythes in England are the property of laymen, which is a circumstance often neglected by our countrymen when reasoning on this subject. With these lay-impropriators the arguments which weigh with both of us will be considered as extraneous and irrelevant, tho' it is here that the greatest grievance lies; for in many instances they are farmed like the post-horse tax, and collected as rigorously.

Thirdly, As the farmers in England universally complain that tythes taken in kind is an intolerable griepear rather correspondent's arguments on this head will apvance, your paradoxical. The reasoning used is by no means conclusive, though at first sight it wears a specious appearance. For instance, if the proprietor receive less rent,

what is lost by him must go into the pockets of the tenants. This indeed might be consistent with truth, if the produce of the soil, and consequently the ability to pay a greater rent, were not lessened by the effects of this tax. It would be truly wonderful indeed, if those who are interested in perpetuating the tythe system should almost unanimously wish to overturn it, while, *vice versa*, those who steadily oppose every alteration, consist of the only two classes interested in the abolition.

I cannot consider the exaction of tythes as the cause of the general low rate of land rent in England, though I acknowledge it has its weight. Perhaps the national disposition in favour of trade and manufactures prevents capital, in many instances, from being vested in rural undertakings, and consequently lessens the number of candidates when land is to be let. Be this as it may, the dependent situation of the tenantry in many counties, from a general want of leases, will always keep the value of land lower than where they are placed in a more independant state.

Fourthly. That tythes are prejudicial to the community, by operating as an obstruction to improvements, I consider equally demonstrable as any proposition in Euclid, though your correspondent is 'inclined to suspect that the clamour on this point is altogether without foundation.' Let us, however, look to the present state of the extensive wastes in England, and consider the practice of the country when improvements are introduced upon such lands. In their present condition, perhaps half a-crown per acre would be too high for an average rent, while the fee-simple of the property would not draw more than three pounds Sterling per acre at market. If tythe is drawn, which is an improbable circumstance, considering the stock which generally occupies them, it can in few cases exceed sixpence per acre. Now, upon the supposition that these lands are to be improved in the customary way, *viz.* by division, inclosing, draining, manuring, &c. it is clear that these operations would not be accomplished at a less expence than six times the amount of the value of the property while it remained in its original condition; while at the same time the value of the annual produce would increase in a superior degree. It must be attended to, that this increased value is all occasioned by real expenditure, and consequently that if tythe were drawn, it would be exactly the same thing as taking 10 per cent. upon every mercantile concern. The fact is, that no agriculturist will improve waste land without ma-

king a previous bargain with the tythe-holder; and in every inclosure-bill a part of the land is set apart in lieu of tythe, which the owner improves himself if he chuses, or procures others to do it for him.

Your correspondent enquires if the drawing of tythe be a rational excuse for not improving land, when the cultivator receives nine times more of the profit than the tythe-holder. Were the improvement made without expence, it is granted it would not; but as this is not the case, the question carries no meaning. Did he reflect upon the great expence of such improvements, or consider how the cultivator was to be reimbursed, unless it was out of the increased produce? Ten per cent. upon any trade whatever is not a bad profit, and more than commonly returned by speculations upon waste land, especially if the long outlays and the contingent hazard be duly estimated. Therefore if tythes were drawn in such situations, the possessor would have no profit at all.

I apprehend the consequences of tythes will hardly be ascertained by a reference to the comparative cultivation of tytheable lands, with those that are Tythe free. It cannot be maintained that exoneration will make a bad farmer a good one, though such a relief certainly holds out a strong incitement in favour of superior management. If we were arguing concerning the utility of leases, I am certain your correspondent would not admit that leases did not afford encouragement to improvements, because a farm was in bad order, notwithstanding it was possessed under such a security; no more can it be admitted that the condition of a tythe-free farm ought to influence the decision of the abstract question. By a lease the farmer gains every necessary security for reaping the fruits of improvements he may make; and in like manner the abolishment of tythes, *i. e.* the commutation of them, secures him in the full possession of the profits.

Finally, I cordially join your correspondent in thinking it would be a desirable circumstance that tythes were abolished in England as completely as they are in Scotland. It is very probable that this tax, from the then scarcity of a circulating medium, was a very proper one when originally established; but now, when money is the universal medium employed in every other transaction, I maintain that not only the interests of the proprietor and tythe-holder, but also that of the farmer, calls loudly for a commutation of this ancient tax, and consequently that it would promote

the welfare of the community at large, to abolish tythes, and bury the word itself in oblivion.

I am yours, &c.

N. B.

FOR THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

On the Effects of MONOPOLY *and* FORESTALLING. *Extracted, by permission of the Rev. Mr* FINDLATER, *from the MS. Report of the Agriculture of* TWEEDALE.

It has been urged that the chief advantage resulting from small farms, was prevention of the too great or too soon heightening of the market price of grain; in consequence of the necessity such small possessors laboured under, of selling immediately to procure money, from deficiency of stock to enable them to keep up their grain for an high price: Not, however, that such advantages were either so certain or of such importance, as to call for either public or patriotic individual interference, in order to force the lands into such small divisions to a greater extent than what would naturally take place in course of the demand for them.

In this view of the matter, the question as to the utility of small farms naturally resolves itself into the question as to the good or bad effects upon the market of grain, of a *deficiency* or *super-abundance* of capital stock in the hands of farmers, or other merchants of grain.

In the *first place*, then, we shall attempt to trace the natural and necessary effects of a *deficiency of capital.*

Were we then to suppose a large proportion of the crop vested annually in the hands of small farmers, who, from deficiency of stock, are obliged immediately to bring their grain to market; and were this not remedied, by the intervention of a sufficiency of corn merchants possessing stock to enable them to buy it from them, and to abstract it from the consumpt market, by storing it up: The consequence would be, an over cheapness, at the beginning of the season; which would cause a rate of consumpt be entered upon, that would infallibly terminate in absolute famine in the end of the season, were it to continue at the same rate till all was exhausted.—Luckily, however, the remaining few of the holders of grain, who had capital sufficient to keep it up, (so long as the market was glutted by the sales

of those deficient in capital) would be enabled to over-enhance their price *now*, in proportion to the over-cheapness that had prevailed *before*; proportionally to the over-scarcity *now* taking place in the market, in consequence of the over-plenty in which it was *before* supplied. And this comparative dearth, which would of course take place, would also be indispensibly necessary, in the view of public utility; in order to reduce the consumpt from its former extravagant rate, to such a rate as should enable the remainder of the supply to last till the return of another crop.—To the consumer, the consequence would be a surfeit, followed by a short allowance, instead of moderate equal feeding; a cheapness, followed by a proportial dearth, instead of a moderate equal average price of the season; the dearth and scarcity, too, aggravated probably by that absolute waste occasioned by the over-plenty and cheapness in the commencement of the season, which would not have taken place under the average price.—The advantage, it is evident, could never accrue to the consumer; it would remain entirely with the few farmers or corn merchants possessed of larger capitals: what takes place in every business requiring capital to carry it on, would take place here —*where capital is scarce, its profits are high.*

In the *second place*, let us attempt to trace the effects of a *super-abundance* of capital.

Upon this supposition, as none of the holders of grain would be under the necessity of selling it immediately, it *might* be withheld from market till an over-dearth of price took place; from miscalculation in the holders of it, as to the existing supply of grain in the country, a subject susceptible only of a rough guess even by those who have the strongest personal interest in ascertaining it, and far less ascertainable with precision by magistrates or by the legislature. In proportion, however, as the victual holders felt a slackness in the demand, at the existing prices, which made it seem probable that a surplus would remain undisposed of in their hands, they would certainly endeavour to avoid this by lowering the price, as every other dealer would do in like circumstances, especially with a commodity of so perishable a nature. Upon supposition, then, of the worst effects to be dreaded from a super-abundance of capital, the consequence would just prove the reversing of that state of the market which has been noticed as the effect of a deficiency; the consumer would first experience a temporary dearth and short allowance, to be followed by a succeeding porportionalcheapness and full allowance.

In judging betwixt the worst effects to be dreaded, as to the rate of the market, from a deficiency on the one hand, or on the other from a super-abundance of capital in the possession of farmers or other merchants of grain; the two alternatives are left to the consumer to decide upon, viz. (to use an homely phrase) whether he would prefer *first a burst and then a hunger*; or *first a hunger and then a burst*.

The effects of deficiency are, however, necessary and unavoidable; from the necessitous situation of such dealers, their conduct is not with them a matter of choice. In regard to the capitaled corn holder, his conduct is optional, and no way forced upon him by the necessities of his situation; it is in his *power* to alleviate the dearth which ensues, upon withholding too much his supplies, from miscalculation of the crop; and it is as evidently his *interest* so to do, by then bringing forward his supplies more liberally, lest they should rest undisposed of upon his hands. Where there is universally a sufficiency of stock among the dealers in grain, none of them are then obliged to sell in glutted markets; none of them can withhold from market in any reasonable expectation that others are obliged to sell in glutted markets; to the increase of consumpt from cheapness, and the enhancing of the price of the remaining supply through the thus occasioned scarcity. As every one is equally ready to supply the demand as it arises, and as each is equally enabled to withhold from glutted markets, the tendency of these universal efforts of the whole dealers is to keep the supply and the price at an equal rate through the season. None can form a reasonable expectation of selling at a price above the average price, proportioned to the plenty or scarcity of the crop; and it is the interest of each to sell, so soon as he can obtain what, to his best calculation, is the average price. *Where capital abounds, its profits would thus be reduced from competition.*

Judging of the deficiency or abundance of stock in the hands of farmers and other corn dealers, by the fluctuation or steadiness of the price of grain, we would seem in most danger of suffering inconvenience from its deficiency; for though the certain prospect of a very plentiful crop will sometimes produce a fall in price of the remainder of the preceding crop upon hand, yet, in general, the price is higher towards the termination than the commencement of each crop. Less variation in this respect takes place now, it is believed, than what took place twenty or thirty

years since; which is a favourable symptom of the increase of agricultural stock.

The fluctuation or steadiness of the market price of grain through a single season, seems greatly to depend upon the deficiency or abundance of stock in the hands of farmers and other dealers in grain; except in so far as the immediate prospect of more than ordinary plenty or scarcity in the succeeding crop, has an effect in lowering or heightning the price of the remainder then upon hand. The enormous variations in price which takes place from season to season, depend however upon the variations of the crop as to plenty or scarcity; and the prices must of necessity follow these variations of the crop, till such time as some method be invented of preserving grain for a continuation of years, so as to enable the merchant of grain to embrace, in his calculation, a series of seasons, instead of confining them, as he does now, to the existing supply from the crop of single seasons.

Could a method be devised of preserving grain through a continuation of seasons, so as to render it possible, (not merely, as at present, to transfer a small quantity of the surplus of *one* season of plenty, to the relief of *one* succeeding year of scarcity, but) to carry on the super-abundance of *several* succeeding years of plenty, to cover the deficiency of *several* succeeding years of scarcity; as was done by the Patriarch Joseph, with the thoroughly ripened grain of Egypt, in the case of the seven years of plenty succeeded by seven years of barrenness; and were there abundance of capital in the hands of farmers and corn merchants to suffice for so extensive an undertaking:—In that case, the calculations of the market would no longer be confined to the mere existing supply of single seasons, but (through mere strength of natural sagacity, tracing the usual run of seasons, though unassisted by the revelation of dreams) might be extended to embrace considerable periods of time, and might thus give a steadiness to the market prices of grain, suited to the average of years, instead of that of single seasons; reducing the variations of price to differences of five, ten, or fifteen *per cent.* instead of the present usual fluctuation from season to season, to the enormous differences of fifty, an hundred, or two hundred *per cent.*—In short, the price of grain might then be kept to somewhat of the same unvarying steadiness as the price of broad cloth; and though a surfeiting excess of

plenty would thus be prevented, a dearth or a famine could never possibly occur.

Till some method is devised of preserving grain for a considerable number of years; each year must continue to depend for its supply chiefly upon its own crop; and, in case of deficiency of the crop, as it is not *in the power of man to create grain out of nothing*, short allowance becomes necessary to prevent famine; unless the deficiency can be supplied by importation from other countries. Supposing the usual annual consumpt of a country to be equal to the crop of an year of usual plenty; and supposing, in a bad season, the crop to amount only to three fourths of that of an year of usual plenty; it is evident, that if this crop is consumed at the same rate as in an year of usual plenty, it will last only for nine months, and leave no provisions for the other three. It is short allowance alone that can *then* prevent a scarcity from ending in absolute famine.

Dearth is the natural means of producing diminution of consumpt, so as to prevent famine; it is an harsh remedy, but a sure one; and one that will occur of itself, exactly in the proportion necessary for that purpose, if things are left to their natural course. Every farmer or other dealer in grain (whatever they may pretend to the contrary, to avoid popular odium) will, for their own interest, endeavour to obtain the highest price that can be afforded; *proportioning the price in such manner to the power of purchasing, as that the whole existing supply may be disposed of at that rate, without leaving on hand any remainder undisposed of.* If the price is either over or under-calculated for that purpose, the interest of the dealers will lead them to rectify the mistake. If the price is over-calculated, it will soon be found, from the diminution of the demand, that the whole cannot be purchased at that rate of price, and that a surplus undisposed of must remain on hand; to avoid then the diminution of price, that must take place upon that supposition, and to obtain if possible the existing price, more supplies will be brought forward and the greater influx to the market will, of course, reduce the prices. If, on the other hand, the price is under-calculated, it will as soon be found that the demand is so great in proportion to the supply, that in a short time there must be a very great scarcity; and that those who keep up their grain will *then* be enabled greatly to increase their price; these views will lead the dealers to withhold their

grain, and to supply the market in less profusion; till the increase of price decreases the consumpt, so as to beget a probability of the alternative before mentioned. Under or over calculation of the price, or (what is in effect the same thing,) the too liberal or too scanty supply of the market will thus, of course, redress itself, from the views of the dealers to their own interest. The interest of the dealers and of the public, however seemingly at variance, would thus appear exactly to coincide in the same thing; viz. *that the supplies should be brought forward in that proportion; and (which is in end the same) that the price should be so proportioned to the power of purchasing, as that the existing supply should last through the whole season, without either a deficiency or a remainder.* If, towards the end of the season, the appearance of the succeeding crop affords a certain prospect of plenty; it will then be the interest of the dealers to get off what remains speedily, while a good price is obtainable; and the competition for sale in the market will lower the price: If on the contrary, the succeeding crop is more deficient than the one before; the certainty of a still higher price will lead the dealers to be more sparing in their supply of the market; the price will, of course, rise; the consumpt will be diminished; and a part of the present crop will remain to cover the deficiency of a still more scanty succeeding one. It seems not easily conceivable how these operations of grain dealers upon the market can ever be productive of any thing but the advantage of the public, so long as they are directed by their own private interest; a principle for whose constant operation they may certainly be trusted, till a more steady principle of action shall be found to exist in human nature.

Men pinched with straits are however unwilling to ascribe them to necessity, because against necessity they know there is no resource. They would therefore fondly wish to attribute them to voluntary causes; against which they can, with more feasibility, utter their complaints; and from which they may flatter themselves to obtain redress, by regulation. Hence the invention of the imaginary crimes (as they appear to be) of *Forestalling, regrating, and monopolizing;* the call upon government to interfere, by internal regulation of the market; and the inept assumption of this power, even by enlightened governments, from the impulse of popular clamour; together with all those destructive outrages so often perpetrated by meal mobs. Had however these evil genii the corn dealers (who, like phan-

toms, haunt and disturb the imaginations of so many honest people, in times of dearth) any *interested* or rather *disinterested* design in the death of the people, they certainly go very aukwardly about their business; their design might be, most readily and with perfect certainty, effected; if, instead of raising the price so as to enforce diminution of consumpt, they should bring forward the supply in the same profusion, and reduce the price so as to communicate to all the same power of purchasing, as in years of ordinary plenty: The existing supply, if just equal to a nine months supply of an ordinary year, would then most certainly be consumed in nine months; and absolute famine would be ensured, for the other three.

1*st. Monoply.* Of all imaginary evils that of a monoply of grain seems the least to be dreaded in a free country, or in any country. Stocks may be found, amassed in such a small number of hands as renders combination possible, which may purchase up the whole of an article existing only in very limited quantity, such as sugar or spiceries; but in regard to an article of universal consumpt, and raised in quantity to answer an universal, a constant, and a daily consumpt, it is impossible to find stock sufficient, in such a number of hands as are capable of combination, to command any perceptible quantity of that article. With all the advantages for combination possessed by manufacturers, and with all the exclusive privileges which they have generally had the address to procure from every government, was there ever any apprehension entertained of a monopoly of the general clothing of a country? how much less reason then is there to apprehend a monopoly of the article of general food; which certainly would require an extent of stock three or four times greater to command it; where those who first raise it, and in whom the property of it is first vested, are, from their dispersed situation, utterly unfit for combination; * and in regard to which, every government (so far from bestowing exclusive privileges) have universally shown an anxiety to prevent an imaginary combination, which in fact seems impossible in the nature of the thing? In the anxious situation of a dearth, it is not however surprising that the minds of the people should give way to the terror of imaginary evils and imaginary crimes; particularly since their belief in their existence receives

* The impossibility of a monopoly of farms seems abundantly evident, from the principles taken notice of in the text, which necessarily lead to the circumscription of farms within their proper bounds.

sanction from statutes gravely enacted, with a view to their prevention or their punishment *. When dearth occurs, the statutory crimes of Monopoly and Forestalling immediately present themselves to the terrified imagination; the alarm is given and the cry raised, that the dearth is *artificial*, that the criminals should be punished, and their wicked machinations counteracted. If by *artificial* is meant, *whatever takes place through human conduct, in consequence of forethought*; most undoubtedly every dearth is *artificial*; being the result of the conduct of the dealers in grain, upon their calculation of the existing supply: if however the foregoing statements and reasonings are just; it will be found, that so long as the dealers continue to act with a view to their own interest (which is surely the best security for their conduct that can be wished) their interests and that of the public must exactly coincide; in so proportioning the supply and the price to the power of purchasing, as that the existing supply may last through the season, without deficiency, and leaving no remainder. The more extensive the stock, the dealings, and the information of the grain merchants; so in proportion will their continued efforts to buy where cheapest, in order to sell where dearest, tend to make the greater plenty of one district contribute to the relief of the greater scarcity of the rest; equalising every where the supply and the price.

2. *Forestalling.* The hue and cry, in regard to monopoly of grain, seems to have greatly subsided. What is called the crime of Forestalling or Regrating, seems to be the crime of the day; and, to judge of it by the news paper accounts of the exorbitant fines recently imposed in some instances, it would seem to be considered as a crime of a deep dye. So far as it is possible to collect the meaning affixed to the term, forestalling or regrating, the essence of the crime would seem to consist in the practice *of buying, upon a market day, articles of food of any kind, already upon their road to market, or arrived at the market; with the intention, manifested by the overt act, of selling them over again with a profit, in that market-place and upon that same day.* There is surely however no crime in simply dealing in victuals, with a view to profit, more than

* Since the repeal of the penal statutes against witchcraft, the belief in it hath ceased; an horse can now be quietly seen to die of the botts, without having his death imputed to the incantations of an old woman: were the statutes against forestalling, regrating, and monopoly, repealed, it is presumeable also that a dearth would quietly be ascribed to the natural cause of scarcity.

in drink, or clothing, or furniture, or any other species of merchandise: The criminality, if there is any, must originate in the circumstances under which they are bought and sold. It appears difficult however to conceive wherein lies the criminality of buying to sell over again with a profit upon the market-day, more than upon the day preceding, or upon the road, or in the market-place, more than in an house or in a field: To attempt to impute criminality from such circumstances, seems about equally consistent with the gravity and good sense of magistracy, as to attempt attaching witchcraft to an old woman, by pricking her for the devil's mark.

An imperious public necessity may cause an innocent action be construed into a crime; like that of the sentinel, who is shot, for involuntarily sleeping upon his post; in these cases, however we may regret the innocent sufferer, the necessity of the regulation reconciles us to his fate. But, before we can consider the fines recently imposed, as any thing else than oppressive; or the interference in any shape, as any thing else than impertinent; it would be necessary to point out the necessity of construing into a crime an action, in itself considered, which is neither censurable nor meritorious; to point out, as in the case of the sentinel, the harm that would ensue, from the toleration of a practice indifferent in its own nature.

There are only three interests, to which the practices of the forestaller can bear any conceivable relation, or can in any way affect; that of the forestaller himself; that of the farmer or original producer; and that of the consumer.

In regard to the interest of the forestaller, it is evident that no interest has been or is taken in it, either by the law or by the magistrate; it is left entirely to his own discretion, though generally the most in hazard of any, of the three.

In regard to the farmer, in no country do the laws, relative to this subject, seem to have originated in any view to his interest; but to have been obtained from another quarter. Every dealer, who sits in a work-shop or behind a counter, within the precincts of a royal burgh, seems to grudge that the farmer or victual merchant should obtain any profit from their respective professions; and has the assurance to condemn, in them, the maxims by which his own whole conduct is regulated, of taking all the profit upon his commodity that the market will afford him:—unfairly narrowed, too, as is the competition against him in

his own market, by the exclusive ptivileges with which his little corporation is invested; enabling him to reap so much over proportion of profit upon the drink or clothing or furniture of his customers, as leaves them less than in due proportion to lay out upon their victuals—In every view of utility, the profession of the farmer or the victual-dealer seems, at least, equally entitled to protection and encouragement, as that of any other producer or merchant. Stunned however by the incessant clamour, with which his ears are continually assailed, and which is so ready to overset the firmest conclusions of reason; the magistrate of a burgh too generally considers it, as essential to his official character, to set himself in a state of direct hostility against the farmer and victual-dealer. The contagion of such sentiments seems also more or less to have infected every legislature; leading to the adoption of the mobbish idea of forcing every farmer to become also retailer; in the silly conception of thus saving the retailer's profit to the consumer: though in contradiction to that best established of all political axioms, that *in proportion to the subdivision of labour and employment; more work is performed, in less time, and in better manner, and at a cheaper rate.*

The interest of the forestaller and farmer being out of the question, and in fact never attended to in the discussion; the only other interest that can possibly be effected is that of the consumer, and the only conceivable manner, in which his interest can be hurt, is by the enhancing of the price of the commodity.

The consumer may perhaps, in his great wisdom, conceive, 'that, as the original holder of the commodity did 'in fact sell it to the forestaller, at a certain price, it was 'from thence evident that said holder *was willing* to have 'parted with it, at that price; that consequently, if the 'forestaller had not stept between, but allowed it to come 'to market, the original holder *would have* sold it at that 'price; but now that the forestaller has paid that price, he '*will not* part with it without a profit; which profit *there-*'*fore* the consumer *must pay.*' This statement certainly contains every shadow of a reason that can be adduced, to substantiate the hurt which can accrue to the consumer. If the fallacy of his argument, however, does not appear from the *Italics* in the printing, it will be abundantly evident from the following considerations:

The price in the market depends not upon any single interest or view or will; but upon the general combination

of all the views, interests, and wills, of the whole buyers and sellers *in cumulo*: When (after higgling and mutual explanations of views, with their reasons on both sides of the question, as to the present state and future prospects) the prices settle in a rate conformable to what is generally conceived to be the proportion betwixt the actual or presumeable supply to the demand. To this alone both sellers and buyers refer, in endeavouring to fix their ideas of what the market price should be; and nothing else is by either taken into consideration. If the forestaller has or thinks he has a clearer preconception of what will turn out to be the market price, than those upon their way to the market; and finds upon trial, that they expect less than he imagines the market will afford; in that case he buys: If, on the contrary, he finds that their expectations exceeds his ideas of what the market will afford; he does not buy: Well knowing that he can have no expectation of profit from the transaction, but upon the first supposition; as the market price must determine his profit, and not his profit the market price. Had *his will* to obtain profit, the power of regulating the market price, he would buy equally upon either supposition. He pretends not however to be possessed of the wishing cap of Fortunatus.

The consumer buys in the market at the market price; if the forestaller has given more for commodities upon the road to market, he must be contented to sustain loss; and it would be ridiculously simple in him to think that the consumer will conceive himself under any obligation to pay him more than market price, to prevent him from sustaining loss or from going without a profit. It would be an equally simple conception in the consumer, or forestaller-hunter, to imagine that the farmer (whose conceptions of the market price, while upon his way to market, fell short of what turns out in fact the price) should conceive himself as under any obligation, to rest satisfied with what he would *then* have been willing to have accepted; when upon arriving at the market he finds he can obtain more: If he is conceived to be under obligation to that purpose, he should be put to his oath as to the price he had expected, and be compelled to accept of that price.

The profit or loss then, from the previous operations betwixt the forestaller and farmer, rest entirely between themselves; according as either has formed the more just preconception of the market price: these operations can,

in no shape whatever affect the consumer, whose price is uniformly the market price *.

The forestaller can hardly expect to obtain profit, by buying in a market and selling over again in that same market; as, after the market is seen, every one's ideas are more up to the market price. If indeed a knowledge of scarcity has recently occurred (from failure of crop, for instance, elsewhere) which is as yet, only in possession of a few; he may in that case buy up with a prospect of profit; if not in that market, at least in a succeeding one, by the time such knowledge shall have become general: when, if his information turns out well founded, he will obtain profit; and his practice, instead of proving hurtful, will only contribute to the more timely production of that dearth, which alone can insure that diminution of consumpt which is necessary to prevent scarcity from ending in famine; if his information turns out ill-founded, he will obtain no profit, but may sustain loss.

Were we to suppose a chartered company invested with the exclusive privilege of purchasing all the grain and butcher-meat of a country, at such a price as they chuse to give; and of compelling all the consumers to purchase it from them, at a price fixed by the company.—Or rather, to make the supposition bear some faint resemblance of possibility,—Were a government to assume this privilege over a conquered country, and to enforce it by all the power of the military establishment: In that case, it is at least a possible supposition, that (in order to save ware-house room) the one half of the provisions might be destroyed, and that the price of the remainder might be raised so high, as to force out, in the purchase, the whole substance of the inhabitants, who did not die of want in the *interim*. Here would be, not an *artificial dearth* (which is ever necessary to prevent famine in real scarcity) but an *artificial scarcity* with a vengeance; though certainly it would be a much more easy and less circuitous mode of obtaining the wealth of the inhabitants, at once to murder and to rob them. If one scourging crop were thus taken off a country, it would be idle to expect a second.—It is probable, however, that some monstrous chimæra of this nature haunts the imagination of forestaller-hunters; inspi-

* The market price is that to which every bargain tends but which none attains; in every market, almost every particular bargain is made a little higher or lower than the average of the whole, which is the market price.

ring terrors, similar to, and equally reasonable as those of children for hobgoblins in the dark *.

Mr Burke justly observes, in treating of the power of language to excite the passions, that the effect is not produced in consequence of ideas conveyed, but merely through the power of sympathy. When, from infancy, we have been acustomed to hear certain words alwayspronounced in the tone of indignation, we are from sympathy fired with

* Though the destruction of provisions is a thing not unusual in meal mobs, I have heard of no inſtance of the destruction of vivers by dealers, which seemed in the smallest degree probable; except in regard to Edinburgh butchers, who, it is said, sometimes bury their meat remaining upon hand, after a glutted market, when beginning to grow tainted: 'Tis pity any thing should be thus deſtroyed, which can afford sustenance to man; it were better sold, at a low price, to poor people; the fault however seems not to lie with the butcher, but must be ascribed to the interference of regulation. The magistrates are conceived officially bound to inspect the markets, and to take care that no damaged provisions are exposed to sale; a delinquency which they are empowered to correct, by forfeiture of the commodity, and the imposition of fines; To be catched in this mere statutory delinquency, exposes the person to a sort of ignominy attached to it by rote. The magistrate, upon inspecting the market, condemns at discretion the flesh meat which he considers as damaged by taint, or even what he conceives merely to be too lean; and, I am told, sends it to the poors house. Rather than lose his meat in this sort of ignominious manner, the butcher may be expected to bury it out of the way, so soon as he apprehends risk of its being condemned by the arbitrary power of a magistrate. As nobody, however, can be compelled by the butcher to purchase his meat when it is tainted or lean; it does not appear that any harm could ensue from leaving this matter entirely to the discretion of the purchaser. It seems hard to deprive the poorer classes of the option of having meat of inferior quality at a low price, rather than no meat at all. Flesh meat, lean, from scanty feeding or too much exercise, is even more wholesome than pampered stall fed fat meat. Even after it hath acquired a considerable taint from keeping, flesh meat seems no way noxious to the constitutions of those whose stomachs can receive it. In country places, at a distance from market, it is well known to be necessary, even in genteel families, to keep flesh meat, for chance of strangers, till it hath often contracted a considerable degree of taint; so that most of it is used in this state, and without any sensible inconvenience. In sheep countries, the herdsmen live very much upon the flesh of sheep dead of the sickness or iliac passion, the very smell of which is intolerable to those unaccustomed to it; and they are a class of people who are certainly upon a par with any class inhabiting great towns, in point of strength, or agility, or soundness of constitution. If such meat can be digested by the aged and infirm in an alms house; it could surely do no damage to the stronger organs of a street porter or other day-labourer. It would be absurd to suppose that poisonous aliments are knowingly sent to the poors house in order to get rid of the pensioners; or that the butcher is fraudulently made to incur a forfeiture of his meat, that they may be supported at his expence, without charge to the funds. A zeal without discretion may however betray the best intentioned into inconsistencies; or rather, an absurd imputation of duty may force men upon absurdities, which they see and lament, but cannot avoid.

the same indignation; the word and the passion get associated from habit, so that when one is presented the other is excited. This accounts for numberless prejudices of education: if we would wish to rise superior to mere prejudice, we must analyse the subject of our prejudice, to discover by its proper test whether it is well founded. I have known a person entertain a most violent antipathy to swine's flesh, though he had never tasted it in his life; and who of course could not know, by the proper test, whether he really liked or disliked it. When we hear the cry raised against forestallers, regraters, and monopolizers, instead of allowing ourselves to be hurried away by an instinctive terror and anxiety for their extirpation (as in the alarm of a mad dog) we would do wisely to enquire into the nature of the objects of our terror, that we may know whether there is real danger, or whether we ourselves only are panic-struck.

Were the laws against these imaginary crimes repealed, the belief in them might cease, as in the case of witchcraft; and the magistrate might be saved much disagreeable embarrassment.—Innovation, however, is dangerous, and it is perhaps better that they should die their natural death by becoming obsolete. Meanwhile it might probably be expedient to remit the cognizance of all such causes to juries; who, as they judge both of law and fact, might gradually cause the whole to fall into non-execution, in proportion as good sense began to prevail.

3d, Interference of Government. The *prospectus annonæ*, or care of the annual supplies, is a duty which every people have imputed to their governments, in the idle conception that their governors can provide their bread. An imputation, which frequently impels government to interfere, sometimes perhaps in the conviction, though surely more often without any, of their ability to effect the purpose.

It might be an easy matter for the elder or chieftain of a tribe of American savages, to take an account of the whole annual crop of maize, raised in common by the labour of the women, and all collected into one space round the Indian town; and to divide the whole in equal proportion among the different families of the tribe. In an extensive well cultivated European state; where cultivation goes on, not in the languid manner of a general concern, but under the keen animation of a sense of separate interest; it is impossible any government can either ascertain the extent of the supply, or the proportion to every individual upon a division; or that it can attempt the violent seizure and arbitrary

disposal of private property, without giving a check to industry, the ruinous consequences of which would infinitely more than counterbalance any temporary advantage that might be conceived to result from any such interference. The only proper interference of such governments, in order to insure plenty, is not by temporary intermeddling, but by general laws, protecting the cultivator of the soil, and insuring him of reaping the profits of his own industry, both against the oppression of his superiors, and the outrage of popular ferments.

In years of ordinary plenty and cheapness, matters are allowed to go on quietly in their natural course; in dearth, however, clamour rises high; governments are loudly called upon to interfere, and are sometimes forced to interfere, or, at least, to affect a bustling show of interference, merely to prevent popular insurrections; though under conviction that such interference, instead of doing good, often tends to increase the very evil it was intended to remedy. It would certainly be a matter of much advantage, were the people at large duly apprised of the effects to be expected from the interference of government; that it may neither be impelled from clamour into ruinous measures, nor blamed for declining interference where it might be productive of harm, and could do no good.

As it is not in human power to create grain, it is evident that, in case of scarcity, neither governments nor the richer classes of the community can do any thing to alleviate the scarcity, or to procure greater plenty; but by diminishing their own consumpt of grain, to produce a saving; or by contributing funds for the purpose of importing grain, or enticing adventurers by a bounty to import it at their own risk from other countries—a measure, which the partial range to which man's benevolence must be confined to be adequate to his power, will justify in a nation, though at the expence of other nations, but which will hardly be equally justified in the administrators of a burgh, in attempting to relieve the town at the expence of the provinces, or in the inhabitants of a province in attempting to interrupt the free circulation of grain for the relief of the town.—Even this interference, the only one that can really augment the quantity of grain and really relieve the scarcity, ought to be gone about with great discretion, least the very idea of government interference should augment the alarm of scarcity, and in consequence lead to mis-

calculation of the supply, and increase (for a time at least) the dearth *.

In the way of internal regulation, governments may, and do, sometimes interfere, in times of scarcity and dearth; though this mode of interference, especially of that kind to which governments are impelled by popular clamour, is always hazardous in the extreme.

In all modes of internal government interference with the supplies and the price of the market, there is one principle which can never be departed from, without exposing the people at large to the most imminent danger of perishing through famine, viz. *that the price should be so proportioned to the power of purchasing, as that a rate of consumpt shall be secured, which shall insure the last of the existing supply till the return of another.* If the price is fixed at an higher rate, the people are pinched more than what is necessary; if fixed at a lower rate, famine must necessarily ensue.

Were governments never to interfere, but from decided views of public utility; in that case, we would often see anxiety discovered to fix a *minimum* price, less than which should never be accepted, under severe penalties; in order to insure that moderate rate of consumpt, which would prevent the crop from being eaten up before the return of another, the consequence of which would be irremediable famine. As, however, no government ever did, in the annals of history, nor ever will interfere to fix a *minimum* price; it seems pretty evident, that views of public utility never did nor ever will suggest the propriety of any interference at all.

The only interference of government, of which we have or shall ever have an account, is in the fixing of a *maximum* price †.

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* In the scarcity of 1795-96, the parliamentary hue and cry about dearth and scarcity, (when, from vulgar conception, or the despicable attempts at popularity, on the eve of a general election, many speeches were delivered which might have suited the ringleaders of meal mobs), most certainly led to great miscalculation of the supply, to consequent withholding from market in a greater proportion than the due one; of course the dearth rapidly increased, till parliament were impelled to entice adventurers to import, at a most extravagant bounty. The dearth, however, proved, in end, to have been so egregiously miscalculated, that it was found, that dearer victual was imported, to compete with cheaper in the home market; the adventurers would, of course, have been ruined (notwithstanding the high bounty) without parliamentary allowance.

† When the French Convention (apparently under the influence of the Paris meal mob in the galleries) established the law of the *maximum*, a fa-

The fixing of a maximum price can only be done (if public good is consulted) to prevent the dearth from being over-calculated; wherever there is dearth, however, it is over-calculated in the imagination of the people at large. If government ever is impelled, therefore, to the fixing of a maximum price, it may be esteemed certain, that this price will be fixed at a lower rate than the existing one; and (if it were in the power of any government, which fortunately it is not, perfectly to enforce the regulation) the consequences to be apprehended are obvious.

It may be alleged, that if a maximum price were fixed in dearth, even so low as to be so proportioned to the universal power of purchasing as to allow every one to purchase as much as he could do in an usual year of plenty, that the effect would only be to place the short allowance, necessary in order to prevent a famine, upon the footing of *option* instead of that of *necessity*; and that every one, from conviction of the necessity of the measure, would *voluntarily* betake himself to that short allowance necessary, to make the existing supply last till the return of another. Such a scheme would appear, however, perfectly utopian. Unless every one were supposed to know, what it is impossible for him to know, the proportion of the existing supply to that of an ordinary year, so as to know the proportion of abstinence that fell to his share, in proportion to the deficiency of the existing supply; and unless, the good faith of every one could be depended upon, for his voluntarily practising that measure of self-denial which was necessary; a famine would be the necessary result. How little *optional self-denial* can be depended upon, will, it is apprehended, be sufficiently evident to those who have a family of servants that eat in the master's house: It is believed no master, so circumstanced, ever found his servants willing to be contented with less victuals in an year of scarcity than in an year of plenty; such a proposal was probably never made by a master, from the certainty that it would not be listened to *.

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mine was considered as the inevitable consequence by every person of reflection. Luckily for that people, there are measures which the most scrutinising tyranny cannot carry into full effect.

With all the means of information and ability of cool investigation possessed by a British legislature, no measures of effective internal interference were hazarded in 1795-96—luckily they were not so overawed.

* Were the practice more prevalent of giving servants a certain al-

That a legislature may fix a maximum price in such a manner as to incur no risk of producing an absolute famine in an year of scarcity, it would be indispensibly necessary, that it should be perfectly apprised of three things, neither of which can probably be ascertained by any legislature in a manner in the least degree approaching to precision: *First*, The rate of consumption of grain in an year of ordinary plenty; *Secondly*, The proportion which the existing crop bears to that of an year of ordinary plenty; *Thirdly*, The extent of the power of purchasing in possession of the whole consumers of grain. A maximum cannot, with any degree of safety, be fixed, unless founded upon a perfect knowledge of all these *data*; so that the price may proportion the power of purchasing so exactly to the existing supply, as that a rate of consumpt may be ensured, which shall enable it to last till the return of another.

The British legislature in 1795-6, however strongly impelled, and notwithstanding of its superior means and abi-

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lowance of meal and money in their own houses, in lieu of victuals in the house of the master, the temptation of disposing of the savings, at an high price, would uniformly insure a considerable degree of saving, in an year of scarcity and dearth. Self-interest is an energetic principle in every situation. In situations of obscurity, where the motives of obtaining credit and celebrity are not presented, it is not to be expected that views of public utility should have such influence; in the scarcity of wheat in 1795-96, it was easier for our sovereign to bring himself to the self-denial of substituting the meal of barley to the flower of wheat in the royal household, than to persuade the meanest of his subjects in parish workhouses to follow the example.—In scarcity, the dearth of price places the self-denial of the generality upon the certain security of *necessity*, instead of the precarious one *of option*. Among those, however, who are so rich, as that the dearth does not necessarily enforce a change in their mode of living, short allowance must remain in a great measure *optional*. Sumptuary laws can have here little effect; they cannot be enforced, except at the expence of retaining a spy or exciseman in every house; as they admit, therefore, of no sanction, they amount merely to recommendations. Persons, however, in such situations are few in number, and as they live less on bread, (every where the great article of food among the generality) and more upon butcher meat; though their short allowance cannot be enforced by *necessity*, it is of the less consequence, as all their savings of bread could have but an imperceptible effect in producing more plenty to the generality. Inconsiderable, however, as the amount may be to which such savings could arise, it is certainly the duty of all, in such situations, to practise saving; for as grain cannot be created, the only thing remaining to be done in scarcity, is to save; that the supply may last out the season. In such conspicuous situations, the credit to be obtained by setting a good example, will always insure a considerable degree of saving; particularly, for instance, pampering parade horses, where their greatest grain-consumpt lies.

lity of information, durst not hazard a measure so evidently fraught with the most imminent danger.

If matters are left to their ordinary course, the interest of dealers in grain would appear evidently to have the effect of producing, with certainty and without danger or violence, precisely what any enlightened legislature would propose by internal interference of regulation; viz. *the fixing of the price at such a rate, as shall so proportion the power of purchasing to the existing supply, that it shall last out the season without remainder or deficiency.*

In regard to individual patriotic interference, for the alleviation of scarcity, it has been already observed, that as grain cannot possibly be created, the only thing remaining to make the supply suffice, is to save it, or to import it from other countries. In regard to interference, as to the power of purchasing, either by distribution of money to increase the power, or by reducing the prices so as to render the same money-power adequate to a greater extent of purchase, it may be observed, that this ought always to be attempted by the rich, in regard to those who from age, from sickness, and infirmity, or from families more than ordinarily numerous, are unable to compete in the scramble of the market with those who are not weighed down by such incumbrances—to increase indiscriminately the money-power of purchasing to a few in a particular district, would only give relief to those few at the expence of the generality; an universal distribution of money would only bring more money into the grain market; but, as it could not augment the supply of grain, the effect of the competion would only be to increase its money-price; but the quantity which each person could carry home would be exactly what it was before. Such a measure would indeed, in some degree, counteract this direct effect; for as such distribution must be at the expence, and tend to the diminution of the funds destined to support useful labour, the demand for such labour must slacken in proportion; and of course the money-power of purchasing must be diminished in the one way, in the same ratio in which it is increased in the other.

(Further extracts from this valuable work will be given upon a future occasion.)

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following agricultural strictures were written in August 1799, to a friend whose estate is situated, on one of the great roads, about forty seven miles north from London. It refers to the farm management of that estate, which was mostly in the possession of the proprietor, under the care of a steward. The whole estate at the time was tytheable, and most of it common field land; but has since been divided, under an act then passed, and land has been allotted in lieu of tythe. I was requested by my friend to view the property, and to give my opinion of its agricultural management, which was complied with in terms of the series of letters now transmitted to you: Should they suit your valuable miscellany, you are welcome to publish them, either in their present state, or in abridgement.

It may be proper to mention, that the soil of the estate to which they refer is a strong clayey loam, rather shallow in general, and incumbent on a very deep clayey sub-soil, differing little from the cultivated soil, except by the want of vegetable mould, from the absence of manure and decayed vegetables. Both soil and sub-soil, especially the latter, are strongly impregnated with calcareous matter, as evinced by effervescence with vinegar; and, in the sub-soil, the calcareous, chalkey, or marley part, is distinctly and copiously visible. This circumstance will account for the absence of lime, in the agricultural proposals I have made for improvement; and, besides, lime is so very distant from the place, and consequently so dear, as almost to preclude its use, even if the quality of the soil rendered it in other respects adviseable: So far as I can now recollect, it would have cost twelve guineas the acre, to give a complete dressing with lime. I remain, &c.

Merse, 1800. *R. R.*

STRICTURES on FARM MANAGEMENT near LONDON, in a Series of Letters, to a friend.

LETTER I.

August 1799.

ALTHOUGH it is a very unpleasant task to find fault, and my observations on the husbandry that is practised on your estate will be chiefly of that description; yet, as truth is my object, and improvement yours, and as you have required me to state my opinion fully and freely, you must be contented to receive reprehension on a considerable number of topics, and that not very moderate in degree.

You may comfort yourself, however, with the reflection, that my reprehensive observations are equally applicable to the practices of all your neighbourhood; at least so far as I had an opportunity of seeing. Nay, you may extend this consolatory idea farther, and with a vengeance; for I can with truth assert, that in my late journey to London and back, through nearly four hundred miles of road, about two hundred of which were twice seen, I did not observe one field in ten, among the *home lands*, that I could consider as well cultivated, few of them even decently; and not one field at all, of the *common lands*, that was not evidently under the most infamous system of neglect and mismanagement.

Do not imagine this almost general condemnation of English husbandry, along two very considerable roads leading north from London, to proceed from an arrogant desire of setting myself up as a dictator in farming operations. I left home with an ardent desire of profiting by such superior management as I expected to meet with on my journey, so far as could be seen during the rapid motions of a stage coach. And, for that purpose, took the outside for at least the last hundred miles of my upwards journey, and for almost the whole three hundred and fifty of my journey home-wards. I had besides the advantage of associating with a very extensive and experienced northern professional farmer, of great sagacity and communicativeness, for about two hundred miles of my journey up; by whose conversation and remarks I profited largely: And I frequently found the guards, and often

met with passengers, capable of giving me considerable information.

Except within eight or ten miles of London, where I had occasion only to see the meadow or old grass husbandry, my only minute information and near examination was on your estate, where your foreman or steward was most attentive in explaining every point of practice; and, from what I saw generally around me, I am convinced the major part of the great extent of country I travelled through was managed on exactly similar principles with your land.

To an eye of any experience, a cursory view, such as mine, at certain seasons, is sufficient to give a very tolerable notion of the general system, and even of the particular practices of husbandry by which that is accomplished; and the season of my journey was favourable for my purpose, as the fallow process was then almost universally in activity.

In the following pages, you will find my maturated ideas, respecting the present cultivation of your estate, and a plan of operations for putting it into a speedy state of very considerable improvement. I am perfectly convinced in my own mind, that the system I have proposed to you would at least double its value, and in a very few years.

While on the spot, I walked over as much of it as I was able, in fields under different courses of the system which is there pursued, and took short notes of every circumstance that occurred as meriting attention. In the evening, at the inn where I lodged, I wrote out these more at large with incidental remarks. Since my return home, I have taken every opportunity of conversing on the subject, with experienced husbandmen occupying similar soils in this country, to enable me the better to give you sound advice.

Theory, I have in no case admitted to influence my opinions, though I, perhaps, could theorise as plausible as my neighbours; but I consider our knowledge, of soils, manures, and vegetation, as yet too much in its infancy for a rational theory of husbandry.

All I have now to add is, that whether you follow my advice * or not, in whole or in part, I most sincerely wish every possible success. I am, *&c.*

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* It may be proper to notice, that the gentleman, to whom these strictures were addressed, has in consequence employed their author to

STRICTURES on FARM MANAGEMENT near London.

LETTER II.

Aug. 1799.

In all clayey or retentive soils, such as that of your estate, FALLOW is the grand foundation upon which the success of every crop that is to come after, ultimately depends According as that fundamental process of every judicious system of husbandry is well or ill executed, so must all the succeeding crops be comparatively good or bad, all other circumstances being equal. That process of farming, therefore, requires the utmost exertions of skill, industry, and attention, from the husbandman, that it may be executed properly and effectively; and therefore I have chosen to call your attention first to it, in my observations upon the management of your estate.

The necessary requisite of every legitimate fallow is, that it shall clean the land: from all root weeds effectually, and very considerably from seed weeds. The former, during the various steps of the fallow, are to be brought up to the surface and carried off: The seeds of the latter are brought repeatedly into full vegetation, and then destroyed. No subsequent process, in the course of that rotation, or course of crops, to which the fallow gives commencement, can in any material degree diminish the quantity of root weeds which encumber the soil; the seed weeds may unquestionably be kept under, and ought to be destroyed as much as possible, throughout every part of the succeeding course of rotation. Having already disclaimed all theoretic discussion in the course of my present observations, I shall not even hint at any other object of fallow, besides that of cleaning the land in the most complete manner possible.

Judging of fallow, by the above rule, or definition of its intention, that which is practised with you, and over the great mass of country which I viewed in my late journey, by no means deserves the name. For the sake of a little miserable feeding to your half starved sheep, what your

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procure him an experienced Scots steward, and has adopted the implements and practices of that district in a great degree, and on an extensive scale.

people term fallow is most shamefully performed, or rather, it is most completely neglected in a manner altogether. It is not only not cleaned from weeds, but, as I was informed, a quantity of trefoil, or yellow clover seed, is sown with the foregoing crop, to mend the *feed*, forsooth, for your sheep. And on account of the meanly despicable value of that scanty crop of trefoil, assisted no doubt by the *couch*, and other weeds in countless variety and quantity, the fallow is left unploughed as long as possible; so long, indeed, that, when at last it comes to be ploughed, there is no longer time to clean the land at all; far less to clean it effectually. And, consequently, every succeeding crop has to labour hard for its subsistance, among a matted bed of weeds of every denomination; and you have to thank the excellence of your soil and climate, that your crops are ultimately worth the trouble of cultivation and harvesting. It would certainly be infinitely better in every possible respect, that you should have a sufficiency of sown grass, which springs up a vast deal earlier than old meadow, and is greatly more abundant in its produce in another field, to serve as early feeding for your sheep. In some of the best managed districts in the south, other early crops are grown for this purpose, such as rye, winter tares, and rape: But of these I am by no means well informed, and therefore leave you to derive instruction from other sources; such as Marshal's surveys, and the various reports to the Board of Agriculture. My intention in these remarks is not to copy from authors on husbandry, but simply to present you with the result of my own experience and observation.

You have this year, 1799, on your eſtate, a full and admirable proof of the very great superiority of newly sown grass and clover over old meadow, both as to earliness and quantity of produce. In the close which I think is called the *long meadow*, the irregular ſtripe of newly sown clover and rye-grass, where the cross hedge had been grubbed up last year, was perfectly ripe for the scythe when I viewed it on the second or third of July: while the fine old meadow of that field, the best as I was informed on the estate, which had been reserved for hay, from Lady-day, at least from May-day, was at the same time too short for any thing but the bowling green scythe and besom; and did not promise to become fit to cut, as an inferior crop of hay, in less than three weeks or a month after that period. Had the whole field been un-

der a crop of cultivated grasses, after a judicious succession commencing by a perfectly well conducted fallow, I feel no hesitation whatever to assert, that it might have produced at least a double weight of excellent hay, and might have been again ready as sheep pasture near a month earlier, than it can this year, under its present management.

I will engage for the truth of the following assertion, that the loss upon the very first crop which succeeds to such an ill conducted and imperfect fallow as that I am now reprobating, a great deal more than compensates for all the advantages which can possibly be derived from the wretched sheep feed which it produces. And, in proof of my assertion, I shall give you a series of comparative facts, by which you may judge of its validity.

Your foreman informed me, that twenty bushels of marketable wheat is considered, with you, as a *very* good produce from an acre of land so fallowed and completely dunged, in what are called the home lands, and about fourteen bushels in the common lands. On my farm, which is not a wheat soil, I grew last year, 1798, twenty seven bushels on one acre, which had been turnips that were led off for my cows and young beasts. The difference, in value of produce, taking wheat at nine shillings the bushel, is no less than *sixty three shillings* an acre superior to your home lands, and *five pounds seventeen shillings* superior to your common lands. Valuing wheat only at five shillings and sixpence the bushel, surely a sufficiently low price, my produce will exceed that of your common field land *three pounds eleven and sixpence*, and that of your best home land *one pound eighteen and sixpence*, an acre. Any one of these sums will certainly pay handsomely for giving a clean fallow, instead of a foul one, and will afford a little sheep feeding, at least equal to yours, into the bargain.

To form the comparison justly, it must be made with soils that are adapted for growing wheat, and under a judicious course of husbandry. On very middling soils in this country, thirty bushels an acre is considered as only a decent crop, after tolerably well worked fallow. On good wheat soils, well fallowed, thirty-six to forty bushels are frequently grown. Uncommonly good soils, in good seasons, often produce forty eight bushels. I am informed that some very superior soils in England have given fifty-six, and even sixty-four bushels an acre. Take these various products, reduced to a comparative table, at the pre-

sent very high price of nine shillings the bushel, and at the very moderate price of five and sixpence, and see where the difference will be. You cannot fail to observe, that at any given price, the proportions will stand exactly the same. It is perhaps scarcely necessary to mention, that I uniformly assume the English statute acre, and the legal Winchester bushel.

		C. o 9	C. o 5 6
Your common field land,	14 bush.	£.6 6	£.3 17 o
—— home land,	20	9	5 10
My farm, after turnips led off,	27	12 3	7 8 6
Middling soil, plain fallowed	30	13 10	8 5
Ditto, good soil,	36	16 4	9 18
Ditto, favourable season	42	18 18	11 11
Ditto, soil and season excellent	48	20 14	13 4
Very well managed superior soils in the south of England,	56	25 4	15 8
Dito, every circumtance in the highest degree of excellence	64	28 16	17 12

I do not, by this comparative statement, mean to insinuate that, by any superiority of management, your soil can be brought to produce equal crops of wheat to those of the most perfect soils, quoted in the foregoing table. I only hold it forth as a palpable example of what can be done in husbandry, by dint of well conducted fallow, and a judicious succession of crops. But I have no hesitation in saying, that, in my opinion, your soil is capable of producing, under good management, crops considerably superior to what my farm is able to grow; probably equal to what I may call the best middling soil of this county; perhaps from thirty-six to forty-two bushels an acre.

After an attentive consideration of the foregoing comparative statement, which I am certain is perfectly fair, I will ask you, if any feed which can possibly be procured by your sheep from your ill conducted fallows, can in any degree compensate for such a loss as has been stated, on the immediately subsequent crop of wheat? Not even to take into the account the succeeding and annual losses,

which must necessarily be in at least an equal proportion, from the other crops which intervene before the next fallow.

You perhaps, at least your foreman, will aſk me, How your sheep are to be kept, without the aid which the foul fallow contributes? My answer is, In the mean time, keep fewer sheep; until your land is brought round into the best mode of cultivation of which it is capable, and which I shall afterwards endeavour to ſketch out for you. By means of that mode of cultivation and management, I am certain you would be enabled to keep at least a half more stock of every kind, and to grow double the quantity of grain and hay from each acre; and all this at no additional expence, or at least at an increased expence for the commencement only; very far inferior, comparatively, with the advantages to be derived from superior cultivation and management. After the land has been got round into good culture, and reduced into a proper system of management, the future expence will become considerably less than it is at present.

I must here observe, however, that the very great superiority in point of productiveness, which I have insisted on, is not to be derived solely from working your fallows better; though even that improvement in your practice would do a great deal. But, to render land fully productive in its utmost possible extent, (and that should ever be the object of the judicious and spirited huſbandman) an alternation of tillage and pasture is absolutely requisite. This idea I shall have occasion to treat of more at large, in the sequel of these observations.

One circumstance, in the management of your fallows, I must severely condemn. It is the practice of folding your sheep upon them, for the purpose of manuring the soil for the succeeding crop of wheat. Your foreman assured me, that this is considerably superior to any other mode of manuring. It may be so; but I will assert, that your sheep are thereby injured at least a crown for every shilling's worth of manure they produce in that way. Poor wretches! to keep them starving, twelve hours of every twenty-four, cooped up in a narrow space, where they can hardly turn or lie down. If ever, among the continually changing modes of fashionable follies, *ſheep races* should happen to become the rage, sheep, thus kept, in sweats and out of flesh, might be rendered very fit for the course, but can never thus be fitted for the knife. I am, *&c.*

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

On WORKING *of* OXEN.

GENTLEMEN,

THOUGH I am upon the whole partial to the employment of horses in carrying on the operations of husbandry, yet my opinion is, that *in all breeding countries* oxen may be used with advantage, as moderate employment will not hurt their growth. In this part of the island we use them in great numbers, and four oxen are considered as capable of performing as much home work as two horses; but we seldom allow them to travel upon the road. It is our general custom to break them in when three years old, and to turn them off to the feeding pastures when they arrive at six years, as at that period they are come to maturity. This rule, however, is not always adhered to, as many farmers are governed by the mode of management practised, and the quantity of grass in their possession; others, by the fineness of their breed, as large oxen will not stand work equal to those of a middle size. They are all yoked with us in the old way, *viz.* with yokes and bows, the expence of which does not exceed four shillings and eightpence, and with care will last for several years; and this mode I believe to be superior to the custom of using leather collars, as practised in other places.

I observe, in the second number of your magazine, an account of the way in which oxen are fed and used in his Majesty's park at Windsor; and though I have not the least doubt, but that they may answer there as well as horses, yet I question if a farmer could go on for any length of time, if he followed the plan there mentioned, or that the animals could live upon the quantity of food said to be given them. It is right that great men should try new plans, for a poor man has it not in his power; but such experiments are generally puffed off in an advantageous way, and more said than can be justified.

The expence of keeping oxen is considerable, though the general opinion *here* is that they are kept at less than horses, which I do not consider to be the case, when the extra number necessary for the work is taken into the account. The oxen devour the whole produce of the best land in the farm, *viz.* the hay fields; whereas, if that land was in oats, and horses employed, the straw would go a great way in

their support, while more corn would be brought to market. In summer, oxen may be kept at less expence than horses; but even then they must have a great tract of grazing land; and wherever they are kept in numbers, a very large proportion of the farm must be in grass for their summer and winter maintenance. I have talked with several neighbours, whether they could be kept upon turnips and straw during the winter months? But they object to turnips, upon the supposition that the animal could not stand work on such watery food; and unanimously think that without hay they could not undergo the necessary fatigue.

Upon the whole, though I am clearly of opinion that oxen are equally capable of carrying on farm work with horses, and that in a *breeding country* they may be used with advantage for three years or more; yet so long as hay must be given for their support in the winter months, I am satisfied that in *general cases* no material saving will be gained by employing them in preference to horses. I am yours, &c.

Glamorganshire, September 3. 1800. — A WELCH FARMER.

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN, *Edinburgh, 7th Nov.* 1800.

I AM inclined, if it be agreeable to you, to answer the queries of your correspondent of New Galloway as to the best method of storing apples and pears for winter use; and to give him a few hints as to dioptrical bee-hives. In doing this I shall study brevity, that I may not take up those pages designed for rural speculations of greater consequence.

In gathering winter fruits observe the following important preliminary observations by Richard Bradley, F. R. S. 'Such pears or apples as are fit to be gathered will easily 'leave the tree; therefore use no violence to pull them off, 'for such as do not willingly part from the tree will shri-'vel and have an insipid taste.' Apples in general should have acquired a flavour before they are taken off the tree. Pulling unripe fruits carelessly hurts the tree on which they grow. Suffer them, however, not to remain longer than the end of October; for they can get no good after that time.

The following approved directions for storing fruit are

nearly in the words of the Gardeners Calendar, by Messrs Mawe and Abercrombie.

Take a dry day to gather your fruits; and let the trees and fruit be quite dry. The proper time of the day is from 11 till 4. Take care not to bruise your fruits. Put them in a very dry place in heaps. Let them lie together about a fortnight to sweat. Then wipe them carefully, which makes them keep better, and improves their flavour. Next lay them upon clean straw two or three layers thick; but if there is not plenty of room, there may be several layers one upon another, covering the whole with dry straw a foot thick at least, to exclude the damp air and frost.

I hold no branch of rural œconomy to be more worthy of some degree of attention, than the rearing of proper orchards upon sheltered spots of clay soil; for fruit trees do not thrive in soils of a gravelly bottom, or indeed so well in any light kind of soils. I know some orchards by the side of the Clyde that yield an average profit of twenty pounds per acre, almost without labour. Many of them are hedged with plumb trees, so that no ground is lost; and choice fruit being thus rendered so common, is no temptation to nightly depredators.

I cannot help thinking we might imitate our southern neighbours a little more in our cultivation of apples, tho' it is confessed our climate is by no means so favourable as theirs. The apple (says the abovementioned Mr Bradley) is of such use in England, that I hold it impossible for the English to live without it; whether it be for that excellent drink we call cyder, or the innumerable dainties afforded by it for the table.

As to dioptric bee-hives, the best I have seen is of wood in the garden of Mr George Jarvey at Bathgate. The bees are seen at work in it by opening wooden shutters on opposite glass windows. Mr Jarvey takes out the honey as he needs it, by opening one of these windows, and the hive is perennial, as he never kills a bee. One on a similar construction, has been made some years ago for the writer of this account by Mr Francis Clark, wright in Edinburgh, which answers very well. Care must be taken that these wooden hives be well covered with thatch, to exclude the cold air during winter. I have suffered by not attending to this.

A. S.

FOR THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

Proposals for a Chamber of Agriculture.

In all countries ardently engaged, and rapidly advancing in pursuit of the useful arts, a variety of questionable practices arise, and controversies occur, altogether out of the reach of the ordinary established courts, and over which the public cannot, except after a long tract of time, exercise any effectual jurisdiction. To bestow upon the first a sanction or censure, and to decide the second by a more amicable determination, falls therefore to a tribunal existing only through its acknowledged competency in wisdom to such cases, the consent of individuals.

The only two authorities of this kind in the island, are the Chamber of Commerce for the mercantile interest, and the Jockey Club for matters of horsemanship. In agriculture, the Legislative Board, or the Farming Club connected with it, have not yet proposed to themselves any such objects as are now in contemplation. Yet there evidently would be as much advantage as in merchandize, and far more than in horsemanship, to establish one or more deliberative bodies, whose voice might recommend, encourage, and censure the questionable parts of agriculture; and upon reference by a court of law or individuals, determine as a jury upon the cases submitted to them.

Such tribunals should originate in the Board of Agriculture, which is the supreme authority of that kind in the country; the fellows to be composed in part of the honorary members of that body.

It should consist of three chambers; one for England and Wales, a second for Scotland, and a third for Ireland, whose climate, soil, and institutions widely differ; each of which should have a power of creating *subordinates*, by counties, or larger districts, according to locality of situation or other circumstances.

One indispensable qualification of admission should be the present enlarged practice of agriculture, or having so practiced for a period of twenty bypast years.

The chamber may originate in itself, *as guardians of agriculture*, motions and resolutions tending to its welfare, by general or particular exhortation, encouragement, and instruction, premium or censure.

The Chamber may promulgate its opinions upon the cases in agriculture referred to it. It may pronounce *its verdict* upon the points referred to it by the courts of law. And where these involve the practices of its subordinate districts, or other quarters of the kingdom, it may delegate to these chambers such points as may be necessary for just decisions.

It may proceed in the same way in cases submitted to it by individuals.

Each national Chamber behoved to make a yearly report to the others of its proceedings, so far as affecting agriculture in general, and should comment upon the reports it might receive in case of difference of opinion.

Lastly, the Chambers shall be the mediums of government, in all enquiries touching the agricultural state of the British Isles.

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

Upon examining the account of a plough for cleaning turnips, in your last Number, I am inclined to think either that the description is inaccurate, or the implement defective.

As represented in fig. 3d, its operation can be neither better nor worse than that of a common double-mold-boarded plough. Its effect as a paring plough, as in fig. 1st and 2d, must be very imperfect; as the mold-boards, instead of throwing the earth into the hollow betwixt the two ridges, can only press it hard against their sides. In order to pare properly, the mold-boards (so contrived as to hinge, in the way of band and crook, on either side of the sheath) should be reversed from their position in fig. 1st and 2d, as also the socks, *i. e.* the mold-board, there represented as upon the outside of the right hand plough, should be placed upon the inside of the left hand one, and *vice versa*, the socks being also interchanged; the mold-boards being set with such an interval behind as to allow the new raised ridge (D.D. in the plate) to escape between them.

I have seen a single plough for paring two ridges at once, whose description would answer to that of the above, new modelled as proposed. The objection to it no doubt is, that if a stone enters betwixt the two mold-boards too large to pass through the narrow interval of their hinder parts, the motion of the plough is stopped; the motion may be even

stopped or greatly obstructed when the land is ploughed wettish, and easily kneaded adhesively together, which cannot always be avoided.

Every object proposed by this complex and seemingly aukward instrument seems to be attained by a mode of dressing turnip *solely with a single mold-boarded paring plough, drawn by one horse*, which has for some time been practised by James M'Dougal farmer in Linton in this county (the person taken notice of in the Statistical Account of Linton, vol. 1st, and in the agricultural report of Roxburgh and Selkirk shires); his mode is to pare only one side of the ridge at one ploughing; and then, after some little interval, to pare the other side.

The practice is new here, and perhaps may be new elsewhere; if it is so it may merit a particular description, in case you judge it worth insertion.

The turnip being singled by the hand hoe (which is the first operation after sowing *) and which is set about so soon as the turnip puts forth the rough leaf †, the pare-ploughing immediately begins; which, for the sake of distinctness, though at the hazard of prolixity, may be thus described.

We shall suppose the turnip ridges to lie in the direction of east to west, and that the operation is begun from the east end of the ridges, and north side of the field. The ploughman counts off to his right hand on the north a certain number of ridges, suppose six; he enters upon the seventh ridge, and, going west, pares a furrow slice from the north side of said ridge; turning left about, in returning east he pares a furrow slice from the south side of the same ridge; which ridge we shall therefore denominate *the feiring ridge*. In continuation, in going west he takes a single furrow slice from the north side of each of the six ridges lying to the north of the feiring ridge, and in returning east he takes a furrow slice from the south side

* Some pare the ridges with the plough before singling; as the turnips are however thus brought to stand upon a very narrow ridge and easily overset, this greatly obstructs the freedom and expedition of the operation of singling with the hoe, and the practice is generally condemned.

† The slug or fly, which is often so destructive to the plants upon their first appearance, does not attack them after putting forth the rough leaf. —It may be worth observing, that the security used in this county against this species of vermin, is to sow thick, at the rate of 2½ to 3 lb. of seed or more to the Scots acre, that a sufficiency of plants may remain, though the vermin should destroy the greater part. Our security against drought is sowing deep by lengthening the coulter of the drill barrow: We indeed generally sow them from two to three inches deep.

of other six ridges lying to the south of the feiring ridge. Having thus completed one *pitch of work*, (if you will allow me to borrow a phrase from the water flooders) consisting of the feiring ridge and six on either side of it, in all thirteen ridges; he feirs anew for a similar pitch, till he has gone over the whole field.

So soon as the weeds buried by this first ploughing may be supposed rotted, the operation is repeated in a reversed manner upon each pitch of work; that is (in beginning as before at the east end of the ridges) a furrow slice is taken, in going west, from the north side of the ridge lying south of the feiring ridge, and applied to the south side of the feiring ridge; and, turning right about, in returning east, a furrow slice is taken from the south side of the one next the feiring ridge on the north, and applied to its north side; and in this manner a furrow is pared from those sides of all the ridges in the pitch which were left untouched at the first operation.

This mode of ploughing is continued so long as the stems of the turnips will allow of the passage of the plough. *And they are never set up at all.*

Care is taken at each paring to keep the plough as near as possible to the turnip growing upon the pared ridge. And by this two purposes are gained; *first*, the greatest possible quantity of weeds is taken from the plants standing upon the pared ridge; *secondly*, a size of furrow slice is raised sufficient to overlap or whelm up all the weeds growing in the interval betwixt the drill of turnip on the pared ridge, and the drill on the ridge upon whose firm and untouched side, the furrow slice is turned over. It may here be observed, that, as only one side of the ridge is pared, and the other left firm, you can consequently bring the plough nearer to the turnip than if both sides were pared at one operation, without risk of oversetting the earth on which the turnips stand.

If the whole weeds are equally well buried at each operation, as by paring at each operation both sides of the ridge, so as to raise the new ridges, (D.D. in the plate) which M'Dougal asserts to be a fact consistent with his experience; it is evident that each operation as above, performed by a single horse, is equal both in point of effect and of expedition, to one operation of dressing performed by two horses with your double paring plough; besides the advantage just mentioned of M'Dougal's method, of your having it in your power to carry the plough always much nearer to your plants.

In M'Dougal's opinion, the turnips thrive better *when not set up;* the sheep also (to the feeding of which inclosed by nets on the field, he applies his turnip) get better at them; moreover the sheep have easier footing and more comfortable lying, when the ground is thus left more flat.

The soil of M'Dougal's farm is light sand, free of stones —the interval betwixt his turnip drills he keeps at about thirty inches at most.

I am yours, &c.

Tweeddale. C. F.

REMARKS on the above by the Conductors.

WE suspect our ingenious and respectable correspondent has misunderstood the nature and construction of the double turnip plough; and this suspicion is confirmed by some of our other friends having formed erroneous ideas respecting the manner in which it operates. As represented in fig. 3d, p. 414 1st vol. it is neither more or less than a double mold-boarded plough, by which the new raised ridge (D.D. in the plate) may be split or divided, and laid to the root of the plants; Mr S. E. gives it no other character. According to fig. 1st (which is a very perfect representation of the implement) both the sides of a drill are pared or laid away at one time; and when the plough returns, the new ridge (*D*) is formed, and the turnips left standing on *C* as described in Mr S. E.'s letter. In this way the earth thrown into the intervals *is not pressed hard against the sides of the drills*, but remains in the like loose state as when the operation is performed by a single plough, while twice as much work is executed in a given time. We have seen the double plough at work, which enabled us to judge of its utility: Upon this head there can be no doubt entertained where the ground is soft and free from stones; but we must remark that the skim plough, provincially called a *scraper*, will do as much work under similar circumstances, though perhaps with less effect.

With regard to Mr M'Dougal's method of paring only one side of the drill at a time with a single plough, and leaving the other untouched for several days, we think it attended with many important advantages. The plough in this way may go much nearer to the plants, the drought has not so much impression on their growth, and the land enjoys greater benefit from the sun and wind by being stirred different times, than when the earth is immediately thrown back into

its first bed, according to the common custom. The first and last of these advantages may be procured by the double plough; though, as every second drill would in consequence be pared on both sides, it would be impossible to gain the second.

It has been our general custom for several years to clean *beans* in the above way. Suppose the ridge lies east and west, our method has been to gather up the ridge when the first ploughing is given, *i. e.* to pare the south side of the drill next to the crown or top of the ridge, beginning at the west end; and returning from the east end of the field, the drill on the other side is pared away in like manner, and so on till the whole ridge is finished. After going over the several fields in this manner, the second furrow is given by cleaving down the ridge; *i. e.* by beginning at the west end of the drill next the hollow furrow upon the south side of the ridge, returning upon the north side, and so on till the plough arrives at the crown of the ridge. In some situations it is perhaps better to plough two ridges at once, otherwise the drill upon the top of the ridge does not get the same work as the others; but in this way the head lands are much injured by the greater sweep taken by the horse when employed in the action of turning. When the beans are at a proper age, they are bulked up in the same manner as already described, with this difference, that the earth is then laid close to the plants each time, instead of being taken from them, as practised when the two cleanings are given.

The advantages attending this mode of culture will be easily discerned. The earth removed from the plants in the first instance, when they are young and easily injured, is always laid to the height; and when the second cleaning is given, they are not only more vigorous and strong, but the hollow made by the first furrow affords a bed for the earth then turned up. It is likewise necessary that each furrow should be taken deeper than the preceding one, according to the strength of the crop, and the condition of the ground. Beans can hardly receive too much work, if it is applied with judgment; and the best and steadiest servants ought to be selected for that department. The great object of this crop upon heavy soils is to prevent a frequent repetition of naked summer fallow; with good culture and a suitable application of dung, this expensive but necessary process may in most places be considerably curtailed, and the ground kept in a fertile and productive state.

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TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

THE culture of carrots in the fields has been a customary practice in England, particularly in the county of Suffolk, for a great number of years; and the advantages derived from this root as an article of food for the working stock, are sufficiently ascertained by the farmers in the district above mentioned. The original object of cultivation was to supply the London market; but the husbandry having spread in other parts, a greater quantity was raised than could be vended in this manner. Trials were therefore made whether carrots could be used with advantage in the feeding of horses, and the result established their utility beyond contradiction.

In Scotland this branch of husbandry has hitherto been seldom practised, though I entertain the hopes that upon deep sandy soils it will soon be generally adopted. As a proof that both our soil and climate are favourable to the carrot husbandry, I beg leave to communicate the result of a trial made last season by a near neighbour, who possesses a farm in the county of East Lothian.

The soil of the field upon which the carrots were sown was of a light nature, something like the Suffolk sands, and I believe the field had carried two crops since it was ploughed from grass. About the first week of May the carrot seed was sown in drills with intervals of 16 inches, which were cleaned by the shooting hoe, and thinned by the hand. The crop was good, considering the excessive drought, weighing at the rate of 675 stones per Scots acre, and the greatest part of it was sold at 18d. per stone, or L. 50:12:6 per acre. No doubt the value was chiefly occasioned by the particular circumstances of the times; though the weight, which is the true criterion, demonstrates the advantages which may be gained even at one fourth of that price.

In Suffolk carrots are commonly sown in the broad-cast way, but I must consider the drill system as infinitely preferable. A principal object to be attended to in the cultivation of turnips, cabbages, and other crops of the leguminous tribe, is, that the ground be sufficiently cleaned; and this is more decisively attained by the drill husbandry than under the most perfect broad-cast management that can be practised.

I am yours, &c.

A FARMER.

FOR THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

ABSTRACT of the SYSTEM of AGRICULTURE pursued in his Majesties farms in Windsor great park, as communicated to the Society of Arts, and printed in the Transactions of that Society, for the year 1799, by Nathaniel Kent Esq. with REMARKS, by a Correspondent.

IMPRESSED with the highest veneration and loyalty for the KING, I hope not to deviate from duty or respect in offering some remarks on the abridgement of Mr Kent's account of the Royal Agriculture. Having lately seen that gentleman stiled, in the newspapers, his Majesty's principal agriculturalist, I shall, therefore, presume that the practices now to be reviewed are dictated by his counsels.

There are two distinct farms; one named the Norfolk farm, because in it the Norfolk system of husbandry is imitated; and the other the Flemish farm, as the agriculture of Flanders was originally intended to have been its pattern, although the actual plan resembles more the practices of some parts of Gloucestershire.

The Norfolk farm consists of a thousand acres of light soil. We are informed that it is divided into five portions of an hundred acres each, and managed under the following rotation, or course, of five years.

First year turnips. Second year barley or oats, sown off with clover seed. Third year clover, which is broken up after harvest, and sown with wheat. Fourth year wheat. The fifth year forty acres out of the hundred are sown with vetches to be fed off; forty acres, in the end of August, are sown with rye, for early feed next spring to ewes and lambs; the remaining twenty acres are planted with potatoes; and the whole hundred acres are worked for turnips next year.

In this account, half the farm is altogether omitted, as only five hundred acres out of the thousand are accounted for. Most probably these forgotten five hundred acres are kept constantly in hay ground, or perennial meadow. I cannot avoid putting in a solemn protest against the English system of continual meadow, especially on turnip soil. It robs the arable land of a great portion of the dung or manure, which ought to be employed for the production of active crops; and it by no means produces the same quantity or value of food, for man and beast combined, which

can be readily drawn from the system of alternate pasture and aration *.

The account given by Mr Kent is in many respects very unsatisfactory. We are not told what crops get manure, nor whether the turnips be sown in drills, or broadcast; neither is it said that they are hoed. We are told, indeed, that this farm has not yet been marled or *clayed;* though marle, or lime, or chalk, is an almost indispensible requisite in the Norfolk or turnip husbandry †.

Were I to presume to counsel his Majesty, or rather to advise his principal agriculturalist, how to carry on this farm to the best advantage, which, from tolerably successful experience, on highly rentalled turnip soil, I am not altogether unfitted for, I would propose to divide the thousand acres into about twenty-four fields, of about forty acres each, and to manage the whole under a rotation of six years; so that a sixth part of the whole farm, or about an hundred and sixty-six acres, or four of these inclosures, should belong to each year's shift or crop.

Beginning this six years course, with four of the inclosures broken up from grass. The first year would be oats. The second year turnips in drills, well manured with rotten dung, and carefully hand and horse hoed. In the third year, so much of the turnip land as has been eaten off by sheep by the first week of February, may be sown with wheat, as fast as a fit portion is laid bare. So much as is employed after that period, should be sown with barley; and the whole sown off with a mixture of ryegrass, clover, white clover, trefoil, and ribgrass. In the fourth year, a part of the clover crop is to be cut green for the work horses and cows of the farm, and a sufficiency reserved for hay,

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* Note by one of the Conductors.

We cordially agree with the sentiments here expressed by our intelligent correspondent. Constant grass or constant cropping is the bane of English husbandry, occasioning a deficiency of produce, perhaps amounting to one fourth of what is actually raised upon such soils as are here described. No valid excuse can be offered in mitigation of such practices, especially under the circumstances of the case, where no third person has a right to interfere.

N.

† Note by one of the Conductors.

As it is upon the solid foundation of manures that every system of good husbandry must be built, we consider every rural detail which does not specify the quantity and quality of the manure applied, to be materially defective. To mention that turnips are cultivated, and not to say whether they are sown in drills or broadcast, or even whether they are hoed, is an instance of negligence, we would not have expected from such an eminent agriculturalist. N.

to serve through the winter; the aftermath of both being pastured by sheep. The fifth and sixth years must be entirely devoted to pasture, and that principally with sheep.

In the second year, immediately before drilling up the soil to receive the dung, or in the third year, immediately before giving the seed furrow for the barley, the land should get a complete dressing of fallen or slacked quicklime, in the proportion of an hundred and sixty Winchester bushels of newly burnt lime to the statute acre. This gives, especially on soils which have not received this amelioration before, a wonderful fertility for the production of crops, especially of turnips and clover; and by affording a vastly greater weight of straw for the fold yard, ensures the after abundance of every kind of produce, by augmenting the quantity of homebred manure.

In the seventh year, the three year old *lay* is broken up for oats, and thus begins anew the six years course. Such vetches and potatoes as are required, are to be deducted out of the oat crop.

I have no hesitation in affirming, that this system will treble if not quadruple the quantity of turnips, produced by the plan which Mr Kent has described. It will likewise greatly increase the product of grain, and of beef and mutton. It will indeed diminish the quantity of hay, which I suppose to be produced from the five hundred acres of meadow: But, as the ultimate end of the farmer is profit, and the chief object of agriculture ought finally to be the production of food for man, that is grain and butcher meat, there can be no doubt regarding the preferable system of husbandry, that indicated by Mr Kent, or that which I have endeavoured to sketch out *.

In a future number, I shall give an account of the system pursued on the Flemish farm, and shall institute a comparison between the use of oxen, as strongly recommended for husbandry work by Mr Kent, and the employment of horses in agricultural labours; which latter is vastly more economical to the farmer, and admits of a very great deal more of disposable produce in grain, and beef, and mutton; and is consequently, infinitely more advanta-

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* Note by one of the Conductors.

Respecting the superior advantage of the system sketched out by our correspondent, in preference to the one adopted by Mr Kent, a single doubt can hardly be entertained. Not only the proprietor, but also the public, suffers under such imperfect management, and this last consideration is an object of great magnitude under present circumstances.

N.

geous for the public at large, as well as to the private occupier of the soil.

Rr. r r.

FOR THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

SKETCH of a TOUR through the Northern parts of Scotland in 1800.

PART I.

Upon Saturday the 26th July 1800, we left Edinburgh, and enjoyed a pleasant ride to Queensferry, where we took a boat for the opposite shore. The crop adjoining the road was, in general, middling; and few fields in our sight appeared to be kept in what is usually stiled, a husbandman like condition—We saw only one field of turnips, and the small quantity of summer-fallow discernible from the road, remained at this advanced period of the year, very imperfectly cleaned. This remark was particularly applicable to a field, at a place called N— C— where dung was applied amid mountains of wreck, or couch grass. Under the present state of rents, and value of labour, it is an important affair to get summer fallow sufficiently cleaned, so as the unproductive year may be removed to as great a distance as possible. One single additional plowing, nay, even a picking of the roots with the hand, will in some cases give two additional crops; or in other words, afford an opportunity for extending the rotation of crops, two years longer than otherwise would be practicable, consistent with good husbandry.

The Potatoe crops looked well, but in many instances, were far from being properly dressed. Perhaps the farmers in this district trust too much to this root as a fallow; and indeed if the potatoe husbandry over the whole island, be minutely examined, it will uniformly be found very imperfect. From the nature of the cultivation, it must necessarily be so—the ground cannot be properly wrought before the time for planting arrives; the dung commonly applied to the crop, encourages the growth of every weed, while the time allowed for cleaning, does not admit leisure to eradicate them; add to this, that a fresh growth of weeds usually appears between the cleaning season and the end of autumn, when they are taken up, and the previous bad condition of the ground is generally made

worse, if a fall of rain sets in before it is properly ridged up. All these circumstances contribute to render the cultivation of potatoes unfavourable to good husbandry, tho' we confess they will operate in different degrees, according to the attention bestowed in executing the several processes of management.

After a few minutes stay at the North Ferry, we proceeded to Kinross, which is a stage of 15 miles. The roads were disagreeably dusty, and the weather insufferably hot; circumstances not tending to promote the pleasure of our journey, especially through a district generally barren and unproductive. In the vicinity of Inverkeithing, several fields in decent order are to be found, but the general nature of the soil from the North Ferry to Kinross, is of an inferior description, though, where tolerable management was practised, the crop upon the ground seemed middling good, only suffering from the excessive drought. Very few turnips are cultivated, but potatoe fields abound on every hand, and the quantity of land carrying hay, was greater than we have witnessed in any other district, while the crop was far from being defective. About Kinross, the quality of the soil improved considerably, which will always be the case in the neighbourhood of every town, or large village. One general remark may be made upon the extensive tract now described, to wit, that if it is ever to become fertile and productive, the size of the farms must be considerably increased, for in the hands of small possessors, it is impossible that the natural sterility of the country can, in any material degree, be removed.

Kinross is a small but thriving place, where, in former times cutlery articles were manufactured. The loch in the neighbourhood of the town, from the number of trout which it yields, is beneficial to the inhabitants, but if a thorough drainage was practicable, this would be much more than compensated to the public, by the large proportion of valuable ground which would consequently be gained. The land from hence to the Ochil hills, except about Milnathort, is of a mean quality, and the preceding remark is equally applicable to its improvement. Crossing the Ochil hills we entered Strathern, and found immediately every circumstance altered. The soil is generally of excellent quality; next to the hills it is mostly a strong loam, incumbent upon a retentive bottom. As we advanced to the bridge of Ern, it became of lighter nature, while the face of the whole district wore a delightful appearance, tho' the several crops were much below what might have been

expected under these favourable circumstances. Fine grass fields about the house of Moncrief, upon which large flocks of cattle were depasturing. These are the most regular grazing fields we have seen north of the Forth; they appear to have been laid out with judgment, and present a rich prospect for breaking up with the plough, when the proprietor is disposed to permit them to be cultivated—From hence to Perth, the corn fields were much injured by the drought, which indeed is equally the case with the whole country through which we have passed.

Descending the hill above Perth, the scene before us was one of the finest that can be imagined—the Tay meandering through a beautiful country—a large town upon its banks—ships either sailing with the tide or waiting its return—villas and gentlemens seats on all hands—extensive fields of grass called the South and North Inches, together with the fertile district of Gourie, stretching away as far as the eye could reach; all these delightful circumstances appearing at once, render the descent of Moncrief hill peculiarly agreeable to every traveller, and exceeds any view of the like nature in North Britain.

PERTH is an ancient town, and regularly built considering its antiquity. Situated nearly at the mouth of the Highlands, and upon the banks of a navigable river, it enjoys an extensive inland and some foreign trade, which appear to be daily increasing. The beautiful river Tay takes its course close by the houses, and the opposite side presents a most pleasant prospect. A noble and elegant bridge was erected about thirty years ago across the river, which is of such excellent workmanship as in all human probability will long baffle the effects of every storm. The situation of the town is rather low, which necessarily renders it damp, and exposes the inhabitants to much danger when the river rises, especially at the breaking of a frost-storm. The opposite shore is free from these inconveniences; a number of houses are already built there, and it is likely as Perth increases in trade and population, that the *bridge-end* will be the spot chosen for erecting the necessary buildings.

We viewed the artillery barracks, formerly the residence of the noble and powerful family of Gourie. To a contemplative mind such a view presents a striking instance of the uncertainty of all sublunary possessions. That the chief of a potent family, possessed of a large and valuable property in the neighbourhood, chief magistrate of the place, enjoying a great share in the political influ-

ence of his country, the favourite of his fellow citizens, and a man of eminent literary talents,—should in one day, nay, even in one hour, be overturned from almost the pinnacle of human greatness, and his family annihilated, were circumstances to be produced by no common or ordinary cause; yet the real one still remains a mystery, and probably never will be clearly ascertained.

After examining Perth, we rode up the east bank of the Tay for six miles, and breakfasted with Mr B. a gentleman of great intelligence in rural matters. What a pleasure is it to the traveller, when he fortunately falls in with a person possessed not only of information, but also of such liberality of sentiment as induces him to communicate freely his remarks upon the state of society, and the practices of mankind? Such we found this gentleman to be, and need scarcely add, that we experienced the most flattering reception, at his house we were only sorry that the time allotted to our journey would not suffer us to enjoy his company longer.

Both corn and grass were suffering in a severer manner in this tract, than in any other we had then examined. Some fields indeed were almost burnt up. Little wheat is sown above Perth. Some extensive bleachfields, filled with linen cloth, are on the water side; for which the situation and quality of the water is well adapted.

Returning by Perth, we travelled down the Carse of Gourie to Dundee, which presents as fine a rural landscape as can be seen in Great Britain. Other districts may be wooded and watered in a superior way—they may have more enclosing, more elegant houses, more natural beauties, but few or none of them have so much real good soil in proportion to the extent, or are cultivated with equal diligence and judgment. The Carse of Gourie, acre for acre, is perhaps of greater value than any other part of Britain, at least it is more generally productive, and pays a greater rent to the proprietors.

The west end of the Carse is a strong tenacious clay, requiring dextrous management, easily hurt by rain, and in cross seasons, hardly to be guided by the most superior cultivator. Notwithstanding these circumstances, it is more adapted to the growth of corn than grass, unless it be red clover, which here thrives amazingly for one year, but as upon all strong soils, does little good afterwards. The rotation of crops usually followed out is, *1st*, A complete summer fallow, which is sown with wheat, if the season will by any means permit. This crop, unless in very un-

favourable years, is usually very productive as to quantity, though the quality, we believe, is generally considered by bakers as inferior to what is raised upon drier and more kindly soils. The next crop is commonly beans and pease, sometimes drilled, but oftener broadcast, which in ordinary seasons are generally very luxuriant, and serve as a fine preparation for barley and clover, which according to the most approved system should be sown the third year after the summer fallow; but, we believe, that in favourable winters wheat is again resorted to. If the proper rotation is adhered to, a clover crop is taken after barley; this is succeeded by oats, which finishes the rotation. Such a course of crops is admirably adapted to strong clay land where the soil is rich, but we could observe, that the badness of the weather last year had rendered cross cropping inevitable. A number of the fields intended for wheat had not been got sown; others which had been sown, were plowed up again, and a crop of spring corn taken in its stead. This necessarily occasioned a greater space of ground to be occupied with oats than customary, and perhaps contributed to throw the Carse husbandry into such an irregular state as will require the effects of several favourable seasons to rectify.

As we advanced eastward, the soil of the Carse became gradually lighter, till at last it proved an excellent deep loam, which undoubtedly is the most valuable of all soils. About Inchture and Longforgan the land is of a superior quality, and much surer for every crop than what it is further westward. This was evident from the crops of every variety having only partially failed in the eastern parts; whereas, upon the strong tenacious clay, the crop appeared infinitely more defective. The ground in the last case was completely soaked with water during the winter months, and afterwards baked into brick by the hot sun and the incessant drought which prevailed through the whole of summer, and retarded the progress of the crop in every stage. In the other case, neither the wetness nor the drought operated so severely, nor was the nourishment of the plants materially curtailed. Numerous fine fields of grain were here to be seen, though of far less bulk than those we have formerly viewed in this fertile district. Under equal management a material difference would necessarily happen betwixt the crops of the eastern and western parts of the district in such a year as the last; for the weather from Lammas 1799 for twelve months thereafter, was more unfavourable to the cultivation of clays, than during any period within our remembrance.

The Carse soil seems ill adapted to the cultivation of potatoes, for, in nine cases out of ten, the crops of that root that came under our observation were worse than those of any other district. Some of the clover fields were good, and admitted a second cutting, which, we believe, was hardly practicable at the time in other places. From the most correct information we could procure, concerning the several crops, they could not be considered as exceeding three-fourths of those commonly raised. Barley appeared to be the best—Pease good—Beans indifferent—Oats not bulky, and Wheat, except in a few places worst of all.

The public roads through the Carse, formerly notoriously bad, are now repaired in a superior stile, and free communication is gained in every quarter. For this necessary improvement, without which every other would have been more difficult to attain, great praise is due to several public-spirited gentlemen, who eagerly persevered till such an arduous undertaking was accomplished. By their exertions, the value of property is not only considerably encreased, and the comfort of the inhabitants promoted, but travellers can safely pass through a district, which, in former times, was nearly impervious during one-half of the year.

DUNDEE is a town of great extent, carries on a considerable trade with foreign parts, is provided with several thriving manufactories, and is the residence of many wealthy people.—The soil of the neighbourhood is of a light description, well calculated for potatoes, turnips, barley, and grasses; and the management practised is fully equal to what is followed out in similar situations, where agriculture is rarely the principal object.

From Dundee to Glamis, in Strathmore, there is much high and barren land, but generally kept under decent management. At Glamis, we waited upon Mr M. an active and enterprising farmer, who not only gave us a satisfactory account of his own improvements, but also communicated such information as we requested, concerning the general state of husbandry in the neighbourhood. He politely shewed us the house or castle of Glammis, upon which several repairs are presently making; and, in every respect, treated us with the greatest urbanity. We here saw large fields of good turnips, and an extensive field of hay of superior weight to any we had viewed in our progress. Mr M. has an excellent stock of working horses—they are well matched, of a stout make, and superior to those usually kept by operative farmers.—

The soil about Glammis is generally of a good quality, and a spirit for improvements seems to prevail in an extensive degree among the Angus farmers, which we noticed with pleasure.

FORFAR is the county town of Angus, and possesses a tolerable share of the linen trade. The land, from Glammis to this place, was generally under good management, and improvements greatly forwarded by the assistance of marle, procured in the neighbourhood. Not a great deal of the soil appeared capable of supporting an extensive rotation of corn crops, but the possessors have, with much judgment, sedulously turned their attention to the grass husbandry, which, in this tract, is managed in a spirited manner. This is the only method by which aration can be rendered profitable upon thin soils, and ought to be imitated in similar situations. With a few exceptions, the land of North Britain cannot be profitably employed in raising a succession of corn crops.—The expence of labour eats away a large share of the produce, and, unless full crops can constantly be gained, the profit of such a system is inconsiderable. Perhaps it would be advantageous, upon nine-tenths of our arable land, to have one-half of it in grass, which, being frequently broke up, and laid down in a few years with fresh seeds, would ensure full returns, and preserve the land in a fertile and productive state, while the expence of labour would be considerably abridged. *(To be continued.)*

TO THE CONDUCTORS OF THE FARMERS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

IT will be extremely agreeable to many of your readers in this county, to receive information relative to the best method of using lime, and the different soils on which its effects are most discernible. I should likewise be happy to learn, from any of your gardening correspondents, how gooseberry bushes may be saved from the ravages of the caterpillar.—With hearty wishes for the success of your useful publication, I am, Yours, &c.

Aberdeenshire, Dec. 31. W. C.

PART II.

Review of Agricultural Publications.

General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lincoln, drawn up for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement: By the Secretary to the Board, 8vo. 455 *pages. London,* Nicol *and others; Edinburgh,* Creech.

Mr Arthur Young, who amused and instructed us in our younger days, by his rural writings, is the author of this work; indeed, whether the title-page had afforded us this information or not, the work itself contains intrinsic evidence of the source from whence it proceeded. We observe the same desultory way of writing, the like chaos of materials, and a similar quantity of political arithmetic, as characterise this gentleman's other performances. Considering the number of years he has been employed in such investigations, the public might have sanguinely expected a perfect view of the Lincolnshire husbandry, especially as the author had a full command of official information. It shall now be our object to ascertain, whether these expectations have been gratified.

Lincolnshire is a county of great extent, containing nearly two millions of acres, and is capable of receiving a greater degree of improvement than many other districts. It was surveyed in 1793 by a Mr Stone, whose account probably gave dissatisfaction; for we remember of a series of animadversions being published upon it in a provincial paper. Whatever cause prevented the Board from employing Mr Stone to make up an amended report of the rural economy of this county, Mr Young was directed to survey it afresh, and the result of his enquiries is now to be examined.

The first stroke of Mr Young's pen is used to arrange the county into arbitrary divisions, such as *Wold*, *Heath*, and *Miscellaneous Tracts*. For this purpose, a map of the soil is sketched out—we presume, from imagination; as it is impossible that such an arrangement could have been executed with any measure of exactness, in the short time devoted to the business. From this map, the number of acres of each kind of soil is calculated.

We should suppose, the great line of discrimination in this county is the lower and higher districts. The former, where tolerably drained, carries rich crops both of corn and grass, while the latter contains not only a large quantity of fine dry land, but also a considerable tract of a very inferior nature, carrying little but heath and gorse, and feeding no other animals but rabbits. This high district is notorious for containing a great number of common fields, which are kept under such wretched management as will prevent them from yielding one fourth of their real value, before they are divided and held in severalty. We give this description from personal observation, having lately examined the district with considerable attention; and, if called upon to say, in what respect is Lincolnshire most susceptible of improvement, we would at once reply, Drain the lowlands, and root out the common fields, and you will have one of the richest districts in the kingdom. Let us see, whether Mr Secretary views the business in this light

In the first chapter, we are presented with a dry detail of circumstances respecting the face of the country, climate, soil, and water, which is given in a most heterogeneous manner. The second chapter treats upon the state of property, wherein a variety of unconnected facts, apparently copied from loose minutes, are heaped together in a mass, and served up without further trouble—as, for instance, take the following paragraph, which is exactly in the author's common stile.

"On the inclosure of Barton, there were above 120 proprietors. About a third of the parish possessed by the two Mr Grayburns. Some owners have one to three hundred a year; and abundance of small proprietors, themselves the occupiers."

In section 2d of this chapter, the following *interesting* and *valuable* information is communicated:

"At Thong Castor, at Whitsuntide, the lord of the manor has a right to whip the parson in his pulpit. I was told of this strange tenure, but do not vouch for the truth of it."

A considerable part of chapter 3d is taken up with a description of Major Cartwright's method of making *stucco*. The Major and the Secretary were formerly intimate friends in the political line, and it does not appear that the deviation of the latter from his old creed has, in any shape, lessened their intimacy. The Major makes a conspicuous figure in this publication.

Speaking of the expence of farm-buildings, it is said, page 33, that "500*l. will raise all the buildings, house included, for an arable farm of* 400 *acres.*" We should rather apprehend, that this sum would do little more than build the dwelling house itself, when wood and labour is so much advanced. Suitable buildings for a tenant possessing 400 acres of arable land cannot be executed for double the sum here specified—but our author takes every thing upon trust, and is of such a versatile disposition, that at the distance of two pages, he states, that 29 cottages, built by Major Cartwright, cost 2538l. 15s. 2d. which is something like the present expence of building.

We hardly know what to make of the first section of chapter 4.; for the size of farms is, in one paragraph, described by the number of acres, and, in others, by the extent of the rent. Stating the size of detached farms proves nothing. It might, at once, have been said, that the general size was by far too small. Witness Sir Joseph Banks' estate at Reevesby, where sixty-two farmers pay 1397l. for 3401 acres, being, upon an average, about 22l. 10s. per man for 55 acres of ground: Again, at Horn-Castle, 497 acres are possessed by fifty-two tenants; and, at Marum, twenty-nine tenants pay 276l. for 481 acres, or 18 acres per man. Several farms appear to be of considerable extent; and, before such hazardous lands as compose the lower part of the country can be materially improved, the size of possessions must be greatly encreased. The author seems to entertain similar sentiments, though he does not expressly say so. Hear what he says upon this point:

"As to the character of the farmers who have occupations sufficiently large to be met with at the most respectable ordinaries, or whose exertions had occasioned their being named to me as men proper to call upon, I can dispatch my account of them in very few words:—I have not seen a set more liberal in any part of the kingdom. Industrious, active, enlightened, free from all foolish and expensive show, or pretence to emulate the gentry; they live comfortably and hospitably, as good farmers ought to live; and, in my opinion, are remarkably void of those rooted prejudices which sometimes are reasonably objected to this race of men. I met with many who had mounted their nags, and quitted their homes, purposely to examine other parts of the kingdom; had done it with enlarged views, and to the benefit of their own cultivation. And the great energy, at present exerted in consequence of the introduction of the new Leicester sheep, by some to spread that breed, and by

others to improve their old race, will not only have excellent effects, but has set them to think upon all other sorts of stock. It has diffused an activity and a vigour, which will shew itself gradually in many other objects. The rapidity with which the culture of turnips has spread, and the manner in which they are cultivated; and the immense drainages, which, having opened new fields of wealth to landlords, have given opportunities to the tenantry neither lost nor neglected, are proofs also of the vigour with which these men have conducted their business.—But, without descending to particulars, and viewing only the general rise of rent in the county, we may be convinced that such a spectacle could not have taken place, but with a tenantry such as I have described."

The rent of land in this county does not appear racked, nor ought it to be so where farming is generally carried on under such hazardous circumstances. As Sir Joseph Banks has the smallest farms, so he uniformly appears to receive the smallest rents. To save mistakes, we shall quote the author's own words.

"In Holbeach, Sir Joseph Banks has 1478 acres, rent 987l.; tithe 135l. and dikegrave's rates 49l. deducted; net rent 804l.; but greatly improveable. In Fleet, he has also 678 acres, rent 498l.; tithes 56l. and dikegrave 22l. deducted, net rent 419l. In Whaplode, 836 acres, rent 500l. tithe 50l. and dikegrave 27l. deducted, net rent 422l. In Moulton, 130 acres, rent 73l. tithe 10l. and dikegrave 14l. deducted, net 58l."

A dash of arithmetic is given pages 46, 47, and 48, which displays the author's profoundness in practical agriculture. Without going into the estimates at large, which could serve no useful purpose, we remark, that five shillings is only allowed for ploughing an acre of ground which is much below the actual expence. Twelve per cent is also stated to be a sufficient allowance to the tenant upon his capital stock, whereas it will require fully that sum to support *tear and wear*, besides the common interest which he would have received, if he had deposited this capital with a banker, or vested it in the funds, independent of every degree of remuneration for his personal trouble. We have uniformly dissented from those kinds of calculation, as they are in most cases imaginary, and generally lead to very erroneous conclusions. Scarcely two farms in the kingdom are, acre for acre, managed at the like expence, so much depending upon the nature of the soil, the climate in which they are situated, the management practised, and the disposition of the possessors.

It does not appear that the *tithe system* bears hard upon this county, a great part of it being exonorated; but, like the possessors of land every where, the inhabitants wish to get free of the burthen altogether.

"I found throughout the county a very general desire that some law should pass for the commutation of *tithe*. The farmers here, with their brethren in every other part of the kingdom, consider this as one of the heaviest of obstacles to good husbandry. There can be no question of the fact, and it is not a fair argument, on the other hand, to recur to the vast rise of rent, in consequence of a superior husbandry, which has taken place in this country. Encouraged by great capitals, and the general liberty and happiness enjoyed by the nation, agriculture has made a vast progress; but this progress would have been much greater, had tithe been generally commuted. And it much deserves attention, that in this county inclosing and draining, which have flourished, perhaps, more than in any other, have established an exemption from tithe over a very considerable portion of the whole; and that consequently much of the prosperity and rise of rent and improvements effected, may very fairly be attributed to this very circumstance."

The justice of the above sentiments will be acknowledged by every person who has attentively studied the subject. Indeed, the most clamorous defenders of tithes are those who are either totally ignorant of the nature and operation of this destructive and pernicious tax, or interested in perpetuating a system fraught with the most injurious consequences to the public welfare, and beneficial to none but those who are concerned in the collection.

Leases are rarely granted in Lincolnshire, and after this is mentioned, few people will express surprise when they are told that improvements are so far behind. We entirely coincide with our author's sentiments upon this article, which are certainly founded upon principles sanctioned by reason and experience, and extract the following paragraph with pleasure.

"Upon the subject of *leases*, as I wish to avoid all disquisitions which concern the kingdom at large, as much as the county of Lincoln in particular, it will be necessary only to remark, that great as have been improvements in it, I have not the least doubt they would have been much greater and more rapid, had the custom of granting leases been as common here as it is in Norfolk and Suffolk. I had particular conversations with some hundreds of farmers on this subject, and the universal opinion was, that if leases were granted, they would occasion exertions

which are not found at present. Upon soils so rich that there is nothing to do, the want of them cannot be material; but upon all others, where liming, marling, draining, fencing, &c. are demanded, the want of a lease will often be the want of the improvement: and the *principle* will prevade the whole conduct of the business; nothing will be so well done upon an uncertain tenure, as with security. Confidence in a landlord attaches to himself only, and not at all to his successor; and the various instances that have occured of estates being considerably raised, must act as warnings to others. Granting leases would, in this respect of raising rents, ease a landlord greatly; when there is no lease, there is no more reason for raising at one period than another, and when it has been done in Lincolnshire, it has usually raised a great clamour. But if leases of twenty-one years were granted, the farmers would, in the first instance, very readily pay an advanced rent, as the price of the lease; and they might be given to understand, that at the expiration the rent would be raised again. Then a rise would be looked for as a matter of course, and no clamour would attend it. Should any landlord be inclined to make this very valuable experiment, I would caution him upon one point; not to lease all the farms of an estate at one time; but give them so in succession, that some might expire every year, when they begin to fall in; which might be easily done by making it a work of five or six years, with a little variation in the duration of the leases. When a few farms in a great estate fall every year, and there is no general operation of *tasting* and valuing,—there will be no outcry; the business will be regular, and the effect smooth and quiet. The landlord will have his fair share in the progress of national prosperity, and his tenants will be secure and active."

Under the head of *expence* and *profit*, page 60, &c. we have an immense number of calculations which for the reasons already assigned shall be passed over in silence. It is an easy affair to make such estimates prove any thing that is wanted. By augmenting the produce, and lessening the expence, a favourite rotation may be supported. If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, there is no difficulty in carrying Mahomet to the mountain.

If any proof was necessary to shew the utility of a general division of the common lands, the following tables, drawn up by an intelligent gentleman of the district, whom we are proud to call our friend, J. Parkinson, Esq. is admirably calculated to forward such a measure. Before land can be inclosed, drained, or in any respect materially improved, it must be held in severalty. And it is truly astonishing, that

the whim and caprice of individuals should have so long prevented such an extensive share of territorial property from being rendered fertile and productive.

Recapitulation of the Tables.

	Old Rent.			*New Rent.*		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Long Sutton	0	5	0	2	0	0
Lincoln Heath	0	1	0	0	10	0
Do. Lincoln, to beyond Kirton	0	1	9	0	10	0
Near Norton	0	2	0	0	10	0
Gainsborough	0	8	0	1	0	0
Newton	0	3	6	1	2	6
Haxey, &c. commons	0	1	0	0	10	0
Barton	0	6	6	1	1	0
Wintringham	0	7	6	1	13	0
Horton	0	10	0	1	0	0
Winterton	0	10	0	1	0	0
Killingholm	0	4	6	0	12	6
Dalby, Driby, Langton, Tetford, Swayby, Belleau, Hay, Greetham, Ashby, Toynton, Keals, Fulletsby	0	5	0	0	15	0
Mr Parkinson's table	0	4	8	0	15	8
Claypool, Beckington, Doddington	0	8	0	0	19	0
Woolsthorpe, &c.	0	6	0	0	18	0
Several near Grimsthorpe	0	6	0	0	12	0
	4	10	5	15	15	8

The *rotation of crops* practised in Lincolnshire is more variable than in any other parts of Britain, no less than 21 pages being taken up in describing them. We do not think that Mr Young proposes much improvement upon the clay land courses. Why beans after clover? Would it not be be better to substitute oats to be succeeded by beans? Leguminous and culmiferous crops alternately, may justly be considered as the most beneficial husbandry.

We were surprised to find potatoes classed among the crops not commonly cultivated, and yet they appear to be raised in considerable quantities. If we can depend upon the statements with which we are presented, this root yields an extraordinary produce. In one instance the produce is stated to be 480 bushels per acre, at 80lb. per bushel, which is 38,400 lb. or 92 Scots bolls per English statute acre, al-

lowing 26lb. to the peck. We do not think our author well informed with the potatoe husbandry, for he speaks of planting 30 bushels per acre; whereas 12 bushels are fully sufficient for that quantity of ground We believe that in many respects he has been imposed upon by fallacious accounts of crops and management, which his practice might have enabled him to detect.

In page 207 we observe an excellent opinion given by Major Cartwright, relative to the mode of laying down grass land.

"Hay seeds," says Mr Cartwright, "so called, abound in general with seeds of various plants unfit for either pasture or meadow, with troublesome and pernicious weeds, and even with grasses deserving no better appellation. Hence it seems best wholly to abandon the use of *hay seeds*, and to lay down land with nothing but such grass as can be obtained separately and pure; trusting to nature for a supply of such other grasses as the soil may peculiarly affect."

It gave us not a little surprise to peruse the fine flourish in favour of the British Legislature, at the conclusion of the drainage section, which we would have contrasted with some of Mr Secretary's former writings, if it had not occurred that such a contrast might have an invidious appearance. In the great articles of draining and inclosing, no public encouragement has been given, unless the mere mechanical operation of passing bills for sanctioning these purposes, are to be viewed in that light. If a general act was passed, it is obvious that immense savings would arise to those concerned in such undertakings. What has hitherto been done, proceeded entirely from the spirit and enterprise of individuals.

Upon the article of *paring* and *burning*, Mr Young gives the result of his enquiries in a more regular manner than customary.

General Result.

"1. It appears from these facts, that upon the various soils mentioned, this practice has succeeded to such a degree, as to justify the warmest approbation of the husbandry in the county of Lincoln.

2. That it has in several cases been attended with a general good effect, even with an incorrect course of crops.

3. That no instance has occurred in this examination, where land has been materially injured.

4. That where it has been attended with an ill effect, it has evidently arisen from injudicious management.

5. That by no other method can waste lands be so speedily, effectually, and profitably improved.

6. That the benefit results from the ashes; as, if they are removed, the crops suffer greatly.

7. That the fire has not the effect of dissipating or destroying the fertility resulting from previous manuring; as the crop, after the operation, is proportioned to such previous fertility from manures."

Our ideas on this subject are similar to the above. As a first operation, we consider paring and burning to be the most expeditious and effectual mode of bringing coarse rough sward into a cultivateable state. Great judgment in the way of cropping, is, however, afterwards necessary, otherwise the original benefit may prove a future loss.

We find 73 pages engrossed with accounts of the *sheep-husbandry*, (which undoubtedly deserves the strictest investigation), but the whole is in such a desultory form, being conversations at ordinaries, and copies from loose notes, that a review of it would be a most tedious business. Mr Young, very prudently refrains from giving a precise opinion on the much agitated question, Whether the new Leicester, or old Lincoln breeds, are most advantageous to the grazier? Nor will it be an easy matter for those who read his work, to pronounce any judgment upon their merits. Take the following passage as a sample of the information copiously detailed. We do not think he displays much kindness to Mr Elmhurst presenting him in such a dress.

"At the ordinary at Horncastle, I had pleasure, and, what is better, instruction, in meeting many capital breeders; the conversation presently fixed to the question of sheep, and as opinions differed greatly, I shall note one or two prominent features. Mr Elmhurst of Stainsby, the chairman, declared, that 'he knew no better rule for breeders to attend to, than to have or get such a breed of sheep, as have good and thrifty feeding carcasses; high standing enough for Smithfield; *properly* lengthy; and, above all, with good, wide, and well made loins. And also never lose sight of, but strictly attend to, *having* and *keeping* a good, long wooled skin upon the whole of their flocks; and not to lessen the weight and well grown quality of the wool, by running into new-fangled fancies, and be *persuaded* thereto by all the rhetoric and well placed speeches of all the upstart, new-fangled disciples of *any* man.'

The account of Sir John Sheffield's *cottage-system* page 412, is uncommon.

"Upon Sir John Sheffield's estate of twenty square miles of country, the rents of the cottages have never been raised, and, to prevent all oppression, they have been taken out of the hands of the farmers, and made tenants to the landlord; they pay little or nothing, or rather less than nothing, for the cottage, as the land is worth more than they pay for both. For a comfortable habitation, a garden for potatoes, of a rood or half an acre, called a *garth*, with summering and wintering of two cows, which enables them to keep two or three very fine pigs (but never any poultry), they pay 40s. This great indulgence has no ill effect; they are very clean in every thing; remarkably well cloathed; no children in rags; their beds and furniture good; are very sober, and attentive to church; but not equally so in educating their children to be industrious."

Such an arrangement we cannot consider as meritorious or deserving of imitation. Why separate the cottager from the farmer, by whom of course he is chiefly employed! No useful object can be gained by such a separation; for, if Sir John Sheffield thought it necessary to bribe people to reside upon his estate, he might do it as effectually without breaking the customary connection. The fact is, that a bonus, bounty, or call it what you please, of 10 guineas per annum, is given to every family of the description called cottagers, who will reside upon the estate; for a house, a garden, and a garth of a rood, or half an acre, with winter and summer food for two cows, is well worth 12 guineas in Lincolnshire, whereas, according to our author, they only pay 40s. for these advantages. We are really at a loss to ascertain the good that can follow such measures, unless the people in question are paupers. According to what drops from the author in the succeeding page, the benefit lies all upon one side of the house. Take his own words: 'The women are very lazy; I have noted their indolence in spinning; Mr Goulton's expression was, they do nothing but bring children and eat cake; nay, the men milk their cows for them, but the men are very sober and industrious.'

The sixteenth chapter (*obstacles to improvement*) is the shortest in the book, containing only 22 lines. The rural economy of Lincolnshire must certainly be well arranged, or

the obstacles to improvement would have received a more comprehensive discussion!

We have now waded through this voluminous but desultory report, which with truth may be considered rather as a ground work for a future publication, than as a general view of the agriculture of Lincolnshire. The plan laid down by the Board is in general followed out, that is to say, the chapters and sections are marked according to the directions sent to the surveyors, yet the most superficial examination will shew that our author, like many great preachers, cannot be tied down to his text. The task of perusal is tiresome in the extreme, for the mind is bewildered by the huge store of information communicated, while little relief is afforded by judicious remarks, or well founded conclusions.

The conduct of the author, in omitting to notice the original survey of this county, and the marginal observations made upon it, betrays a want of candour hardly reconcileable with a liberal character; for the first outlines of the rural economy of this county was executed in a manner equal to the most, and superior to the generality of these original sketches.

A REVIEW of the AGRICULTURAL SURVEY of LINCOLNSHIRE, together with an address to the BOARD of AGRICULTURE; a letter to its Secretary, and Remarks on the recent publication of JOHN LORD SOMERVILLE, and on the subject of inclosures; By THOMAS STONE 421 *Pages Octavo.* London. Cawthorn. Edinburgh. Hill, 1800.

A severe drubbing is here given to our old friend Mr Secretary Young, though the rod is applied with more zeal than judgment. We believe Mr Stone is an excellent land-surveyor, and that he possesses a greater store of practical knowledge than his antagonist; but his talents for reviewing seem to be of an inferior cast, and the specimen afforded in this publication, will not add to his celebrity.

Mr Stone, as noticed in the preceding page, was employed in 1793 to survey the county of Lincoln, and likewise drew up reports for the counties of Bedford and Huntingdon. These reports were far from being amiss, considering them

as rude outlines, or hasty sketches of a subject, which at the time was imperfectly comprehended, even by those who employed him. While he remained in full expectation of being appointed to prepare a more correct account of those districts, and was diligently collecting additional information, Mr Young was dispatched down to Lincolnshire to make a new survey, ' in which honour would be done to no authority but that of Mr Young himself.'

It is not our intention to enter upon the merits of this contest, but to confine ourselves to a few remarks upon the work now under consideration. The Address to the Board contains a number of severe observations which likely will not be much relished by that respectable body. Be this as it may, the sentiments entertained by Mr Stone are much the same with those formed by the most respectable agriculturists, concerning the nature and design of the institution.

The letter to the Secretary is written with much asperity, and takes his conduct to pieces in the most cutting manner; the following is a notable specimen:—

" If we turn our observations to Bradfield Hall Farm, in Suffolk, the *seat of your improvements*, the most useful lesson of practical husbandry may be instantly learnt, by adopting the contrary of your example. Were the practical husbandmen of Suffolk, within the circle of your fame, questioned by an inquisitive traveller respecting who was the worst farmer in the county, they would immediately answer, Arthur Young."

We have seldom thought Mr Young gifted with the greatest stock of *real* practical knowledge; but he was certainly among the first who turned the public mind to agricultural enquiries. Some of his early writings are fraught with judicious observations upon the leading principles of agriculture, and the causes which retarded its improvement; though, since the period of his exaltation at the Board, a striking alteration of his sentiments has appeared. The weak side of all his publications, is occasioned by an enthusiastic desire to gather *facts*, which he offers to the public in a crude and undigested state, whether he is capable of selecting the *grain* from the *chaff*, we shall not stop to enquire. Perhaps the establishment of the Agricultural Board, has been to him a great misfortune. At that period, he was esteemed one of the first-rate writers upon rural science, and his authority looked upon with respect. Placed in his of-

ficial situation, like a city upon a hill, his merits and defects are now observed with more facility.

The review, as it is called, occupies 326 pages, but we are much at a loss to ascertain, what portion of it deserves that title. Instead of animadverting upon the leading parts, or closely examining every page, Mr Stone interlards his own observations upon the county, and extracts from his former publications, with the criticisms offered upon Mr Young's survey. To eke out the book, or, probably with the intention of illustrating his observations, 125 pages marked with inverted commas, selected either from the author's former works, or from those of other people, are included in the review, which gives it a most heterogenous aspect. Notwithstanding this desultory mode of arrangement, we discover a number of just sentiments upon various branches of rural economy; but Mr Stone should have remembered he was reviewing Mr Young's book, not writing a treatise upon another subject.

Lord Somerville, the late President, comes in for a share of the general threshing, and his several plans for improvement, when at the head of the Board, are treated with much freedom. Upon these matters we do not presume to offer an opinion, though we cordially coincide with Mr Stone in thinking, that Sir John Sinclair's plan of operations "certainly approached as near as circumstances would permit, to the only rational plan on which the operations of a National Board of Agriculture could be conducted." N.

A Temperate Discussion of the Causes which have led to the Present High Price of BREAD; *addressed to the Plain Sense of the Public. London,* Wright. 43 *Pages* 8*vo. price* 1*s.*

THE contents of this well written and judicious pamphlet, are in strict unison with the title page, for we have seldom perused a work of this nature, wherein a greater portion of moderation and candour was discernible. The author accurately traces out the causes of the present scarcity, which he

justly thinks is not atributable to the effect of monoply, or to the speculations of corn dealers—nor occasioned by the war. He candidly, however, allows the influence of these things, but considers it as neither great nor preponderating.

That useful and necessary class of dealers, generally stiled "middle-men," having of late been exposed to much obloquy, have met with an able defender.

"If the farmer were obliged to sell all the corn he brought to market, to the consumer, and the consumer could only purchase of the farmer, What would be the consequence? In an overstocked market, the farmer must be ruined; and in an ill supplied market, the consumer must starve. Hence arises the necessity of the employment of the capital of the *middle-man*, who, by affording the farmer a certain sale, enables him to sell cheaper, and who, because he purchases more than he consumes, has the means of furnishing the market with whatever the demand requires. No large city could be adequately supplied without the intervention of these men, who have lately been represented as interfering without necessity, and have been treated by a misguided mob, as objects of public odium and detestation.

"It is true, that when an article becomes scarce, particularly one of constant demand, the price of such article is not only raised by the scarcity, but is generally increased also, in some degree, by the speculation which is founded upon such scarcity. Farmers, and other dealers in corn, have been said to have kept that article in store lately more than in ordinary times, and so to have held up the price. But are we sure this is an evil? Is not, in the time of scarcity, the interest of the dealer in corn, and that of the public, in a great degree the same? If he brought his corn to market, as in a plentiful year, the whole corn of the country would be consumed in the first four months: A scanty crop should be spread sparingly over every part of the year; and it is the high price that saves it to the end. As to the idea of a combination of farmers to hoard their corn, it it chimerical; they do not communicate enough with each other to combine, and if they did communicate, their numbers, and their different circumstances, would preclude the possibility of such a practice: They were never supposed to have hoarded more upon speculation than in the last twelve months, and yet the old stock of corn was never so nearly exhausted on the appearance of the new crop, as in the present season."

Though those who are inimical to the war, take up wide ground, when they assume, as the principal cause of the pre-

sent high prices. Yet, our Author is equally wrong, when he indirectly atempts to prove, that it has no effect at all. War must necessarily have an influence upon markets, especially in deficient years; for no government can possibly maintain a large body of men, at so small an expence, and with so little waste, as those men could and would support themselves. Besides, the soldiers and sailors employed are unproductive branches of the community; and the stations formerly occupied by them, must one way or other be filled up by others, which increases the demand at market; or, if not filled up, the productive powers of the earth, must partially remain dormant from a want of suitable cultivation. Again, war prevents a free importation from other countries, or causes grain to be purchased at higher prices, or procured with greater difficulty.—So far war operates to raise the value of provisions, and no farther.

This respectable writer appears, also, to fall into another error, when he supposes, that taxes have no effect in raising prices. If the farmer does not sell at higher prices than formerly, how is he to pay his income tax, and other numerous increased expences, occasioned by the operation of taxes upon others? That the triple assessment of 1798, did not rise prices that year proves nothing; for the tax remained generally unpaid till the end of that, or the beginning of the next year. At any rate, some time must elapse, before its influence was discernible.

Though we differ a little with the author in this single point, viz. the *effect* of war and taxes upon the markets; yet we cordially concur with him, that war is not the *cause* of the scarcity. With such crops as have been reaped for two succeeding years, a scarcity would have unavoidably followed, under the most peaceable æra, though, perhaps in a lesser degree. The scarcity, or rather famine, at the conclusion of last century, happened immediately after the peace of Ryswick; whereas, in the ten preceding years, when a convulsion prevailed in the political state of Europe, smiling plenty, though not with peace, circulated over these lands.

PART III.

AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE.

PREVIOUS to detailing the intelligence communicated to us respecting crops, labour, or markets, we observe, with feelings of deep commiseration, that the present distresses of the country furnishes a melancholy proof of the truth of the statement given in the last number; a statement that did not proceed upon conjecture, but upon the best and most correct information. Our pleasure would have been great, had the result been of a different nature.

Amidst so much distress, it is highly consoling to observe the steps that have been taken by Government, not only to increase the supply of grain and provisions by every possible means, but to set an example of economy, highly commendable at all times, but in the present state of the country indispensibly necessary. The proceedings of both Houses of Parliament have removed the film from the eyes of many, in regard to the real state of the country, and a part at least of those who were loud in their complaints against farmers and others who deal in agricultural produce, now entertain sentiments diametrically opposite to what they formerly held, and which had been instilled into them by the false statements presented in the newspapers. Great, however, as this change in the public mind is, there are still a set of persons in the country who are proof against conviction of every kind, and who, like the adder, shut their ears to every sound but the croakings of discontent. We have a notable instance of such perverseness, in an advertisement from a Society at Dumfries, inserted in some of the public papers, setting forth the miseries of the poor, and expressing themselves in terms of execration against the authors of the present calamity. Were the people who dictated the advertisement worth reasoning with, they might be asked with great propriety, Who were the authors of their distress? Men of the best sense, who are in the habit of viewing things through a just medium, and tracing effects to their proper causes, ascribe the scarcity to a series of bad seasons. If their opinion is correct, the detestation and abhorrence so strongly expressed in this

this advertisement either means nothing, or is shockingly impious. Without commenting farther upon the language of that advertisement, and others of a similar tendency, we have simply to observe, that it furnishes a strong proof of the mildness of our Government, that either the authors or publishers of productions so inimical to the public tranquillity, should escape with impunity.

That a real scarcity prevails in this country is not in the least degree problematical; for, if the high prices of grain, and the immense quantities imported from foreign parts, were insufficient to prove the fact, it is now ascertained, in the most precise manner, by the Reports presented to the two Houses of Parliament, by their respective Committees. Perhaps these reports are not understood as they ought to be. Upon corn farms, near two-fifths of the produce, in ordinary years, is consumed or used at home, for seed, feeding horses, servants wages, and family purposes; that quantity is indispensibly necessary in the best of years, and must be had in the very worst; hence the deficiency is entirely upon the quantity that remains to be marketed, which, under circumstances similar to the last and the present years, will not much exceed one half of the usual supply. Few persons, except those intimately acquainted with agricultural concerns, are aware, that a crop *one fourth short* of an average, affords little more than *one half* of the grain to be carried to market, as could be furnished in favourable years.

The measures suggested by administration, and adopted by Parliament, are not only consolotary, but highly praiseworthy. Instead of resorting to the novel expedients proposed by speculative men for regulating the market, they have judiciously given every degree of encouragement to the importation of grain from foreign countries, which is the only way by which the quantity in the market can be increased, and they have recommended the strictest economy to all ranks, which will necessarily lessen the consumption in a considerable degree. Substitutes for grain have also been industriously provided, and, with great wisdom, the market has been left to find its own level. By such measures, it is true, the evil cannot be altogether removed, but it is equally true, that the pressure will be removed from thousands who would otherwise have sunk under its burthen. The principal alleviation of the present distress will be found in a rigid economy of our resources, in a retrenchment of

every superfluity on the part of the opulent, and in the use of such substitutes for grain as can be procured.

It is evident that a certain class of people, under every practicable retrenchment, are still unable to encounter the pressure of the times. These are the working or industrious poor, whose wages, it must be confessed, bear no affinity to the common prices of the necessaries of life; hence their case, under every consideration, deserves the attention of those upon whom the law has devolved the care of such matters. This numerous class of the community are perfectly distinct from those stiled the *ordinary poor*, who are looked after and supported by the heritors and kirk-session of the parish in which they reside. Many country parishes have assessed themselves in considerable sums for the support of the working people; but as doubts are entertained by several people, whether these assessments, under the existing laws, could be enforced, we think it would have been wise and salutary in the Legislature to have passed a temporary law, something similar to the one enacted last Session of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh. Under existing circumstances, the welfare of such a numerous and valuable part of the community ought not to depend upon the voluntary benevolence of their superiors, it being obvious, that, if this were the case, their situation, in many instances, would be totally neglected. To render any measure generally useful, it must be made obligatory upon all; therefore, a new poor's law at this time was absolutely necessary. The resolutions of one parish upon this subject are given in this number, and we are free to say, that the plan therein adopted, is not only creditable to those concerned, but admirably calculated for relieving the industrious poor in an effectual manner.

The weather since the latter part of autumn has been more than commonly favourable for the several operations of agriculture, and has allowed tillage of the most perfect kind to be extensively executed. The wheat lands were got sown in excellent condition, and the young plants have a promising appearance. A full quantity was universally sown, but, if the spring is favourable, a good deal of land in the early districts, presently occupied with turnips, will also be sown with this grain.

The corn markets have steadily advanced during the greatest part of this quarter, but within these two weeks past, in the article of wheat, they have declined in several parts. Perhaps this declension may be attributed to a smaller demand

mand, as the general use of substitutes must lessen the quantity of grain consumed. The large importation lately made from foreign countries has also occasioned a temporary glut; but unless such are regularly continued, we cannot expect any considerable reduction of prices. Barley has hitherto been the most plentiful grain, but, owing to mixing it among wheat, and the giving it to horses, a great extension of the demand and advance upon the prices has lately taken place. Oats have not fluctuated much in price of late, but it is to be feared, that, unless large supplies are received from abroad, this article will be afterwards exceedingly scarce, as the want of fodder will occasion them to be early threshed out. Pease and beans are rapidly rising in several districts, and a sure proof of their scarcity arises from the smallness of the quantity hitherto presented at market. A want of horse fodder has caused the most of farmers to delay threshing black victual till the spring months, when it may be expected these grains will become more plentiful.

Potatoes are deficient to a greater degree than last year, and a considerable proportion of this crop is of a very inferior quality, owing to their having been stinted by the drought during summer, and having vegetated a-new after the autumn rains. In some of the northern districts, the crop is already nearly consumed, and, in every place, they are scarce.—Apprehensions are entertained, that this useful root will not keep through the winter, from the quality being originally so much impaired.

Hay and Straw, over North Britain, are high beyond all precedent, notwithstanding the openness of the winter admitted beasts of all descriptions being kept upon the pastures longer than is customary.

The markets for fat cattle and sheep have, during the quarter, been well supplied, and prices have for some time past, been upon the decline, but they are now rather higher; owing to the general scarcity of fodder and other circumstances, a great number of half-fed beasts have been thrown into the market, which would otherwise have been at the feeding stake: This temporary glut will probably be severely felt in the spring months, unless the grass season is very early. Lean stock, for two months past, have been a drug, and the quantity wintered in the straw yards is hardly equal to the half of what were commonly kept.

Upon the whole, our prospect at the commencement of this volume, is much more pleasant and agreeable what we than experienced last year, when we entered upon our work. That the

auspicious circumstances, under which the labour of the year has hitherto been executed, may continue to prevail during every subsequent operation, till at last the year is crowned with a plentiful crop, is our earnest wish, and, we trust, the wish of every person who has the interest of agriculture and the welfare of the public at heart.

Extracts from Original Correspondence.

SCOTLAND.

Angus, Mearns, and Aberdeen Quarterly Report.

Taking these three counties in a mass, they exhibited a strange variety of very good, and despicably bad crops; and the effects of superior husbandry was never so distinguishable, as during the last season. Along the coast we have a considerable tract of fine deep land, originally of a clay basis, upon which the crop in general was equal to an average one, where good management had been practised. On the strong clays and thin lands, the different crops have turned out miserably poor.

The bear may be reckoned at two thirds of an average crop. The oats in Angus and Mearns, at one half of an average, and in Aberdeenshire, at two thirds; but these proportions must be greatly reduced, when viewed as a year's supply. They were, in many cases, cut before ripe; and, instead of the consumption beginning betwixt Martinmas and Christmas, as customary, most people began to thresh and meal before the latter end of August. I apprehend we have a smaller supply of grain in these three counties, than was on hand at the same period last year.

An insect prevailed, to a great extent, upon the crops, which certainly hurt them much, and, in some parts rendered the fields affected, entirely black or discoloured. When the stalk, on which they lodged, was viewed with a microscope, it seemed rough and indented; they having evidently drawn their support from the juice which should have nourished the grain. I find, as far as I can depend upon the attention of my informers, and it is so from my own observation, that where the insect most prevailed, the oats have turned out very unproductive in meal,

and the poorest crops, even in bolls, are those where the insects are most numerous.

Towards the beginning of harvest, prices sunk much, but the advance since has been very rapid. Wheat started at 48s, and 50s per boll, and has now got up to 63s., Angus measure of 90 pints. Bear and barley, from 36s to 42s per boll, of 128 pints. In Aberdeenshire the measure is larger but so is the price.

Bear meal was, at one time as low as 1s per peck, but has now got up to 1s 6d, and 1s 10d, and can hardly be got at these prices. Unmixed oatmeal can with difficulty be procured at market, and those who have it, get what they please to ask—it may be stated at 2s 6d and 2s 8d per peck. Potatoes at 1s 6d per peck, of 32 lbs.—at Aberdeen 2s. Hay 1s 6d per stone, and straw about 10s per boll of grain.

Beef is very reasonable and, at present we have a very full supply. Fat cattle are about 6s. or 6s 3d per stone, sinking the offal. A great deal of tolerable beef has been sold at 5s per stone.—Lean cattle unsaleable.

At present, every thing wears the appearance of better times next season. Our wheat lands were sown in excellent condition, and the braird looks well—the extent much as usual. All our other farm labour is well advanced, and a prospect afforded of a rapid dispatch in spring work, if the weather is any way favourable.

Had not the weather, since the harvest, proved open and mild, it is hard to say what would have become of our lean stock; even as it is, many people will have difficulty in bringing them through alive. Turnips turn out well, and, owing to the temperature of the season, fattening cattle come forward uncommonly fast. *Dec. 25th.*

BERWICKSHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

From a combination of circumstances, the quantity of ground under summer-fallow this year exceeded the ordinary proportion, and as the season for sowing wheat proved extremely favourable, that grain has in conseqence been sown to a greater extent than usual, and the fields every where exhibit a thick braird of healthy plants.

Turnip, which was formerly mentioned as being a fine crop, continued to improve, even during this quarter; from 7l. to 8l. an acre, English measure, has been given for those of the best quality: young grasses have also improved much.

Ploughing is in a very forwardly state, the weather having been uncommonly favourable for agricultural operations; some

farmers have already begun ploughing up lea ground for want of other employment.

The market for lean cattle, which, at the commencement of this quarter, was rather upon the advance, declined rapidly towards Martinmas, from a general apprehension of the scarcity of fodder, and a dread of an early winter, which a fall of snow at that time seemed to indicate. The mild weather we have since experienced, has contributed much to the saving of fodder, in situations where cattle could with propriety be allowed a range on the pastures.

Butcher markets have remained almost stationary during the whole quarter; beef and mutton are from 5d to 6d per lb; but the price of fat stock has recently experienced a considerable advance, in consequence of a brisk demand for the supply of Morpeth market.

Hay has already been selling as high as 2s per stone of 22¼ lbs English, but the most common price is 1s. 9d.; Potatoes per boll of 40 stone English, at 24s; salted butter from the dairy, at 60s. per firkin: Eggs at 1s 5d per dozen, and oat meal at 5s. 6d. per Dutch stone. Corn markets have kept constantly advancing: at Berwick, December 27th, good grain sold as follows: viz.

Wheat from 95s to 100s. Oats from 36s to 44s.
Barley from 45s to 50s. Pease from 65s to 70s per boll of six Winchester bushels.

December 29th.

ARGYLESHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

The harvest in this county was got in without any material damage. The grain, in general, is hearty, though the barn, and stack-yard are not so full as usual. This deficiency in the straw, is a circumstance that has turned out much to the advantage of the poor and the public, in such a season as the present: for the farmer, afraid of a scarcity of provender for his cattle, delayed as long as possible to thrash out any more than was absolutely necessary, by which the stock of provisions is much better saved, than if the best house wives had got it sooner under their own management. Perhaps the expectation of a higher price, has also contributed hitherto, towards keeping more from coming to market than used in ordinary years. Nor is it reasonable to blame the farmer for attending to his own interest, as well as the merchant, who wishes to bring his goods to the best market he can find.

Whatever be the reason, a boll of meal was not so difficult to be got in this county during last summer, nor for fifty years past, as it has been since the conclusion of last harvest. It i

all well: for we have the better security of provision for the time to come; as he who saves his supper at night, will find it in the morning. In the mean time all, rich and poor, have the greatest abundance of the *root of plenty*, potatoes. In no year has there been a greater quantity of them in this county than in the last, as the ground, in general, is not of a nature to bind, or be hurt by drought; and the hills and mountains, with their numerous springs, continued to supply the valleys with moisture, when many other parts of the kingdom were entirely parched. Hence, our crops in this county in general, are very little, if any worse than usual. So that, with economy, we may be able to make the two ends of the year meet.

In a time of scarcity, there is no rule comparable to *economy*. This county was in use of importing yearly, from 25,000, to 30,000 bolls of meal. All this was saved last year by economy: for if a small trifle was imported, the export was at least equal to it. The only danger we have to apprehend at present is, the want of virtue to resist the temptation to private distilling. It is time those who are able to pay fines, may be made to feel, that it is not only a nefarious, but a *losing* business, when detected. But the rich are often in collusion with the poor, who have nothing to lose; since the law does not inflict, as in such cases perhaps it ought, corporal punishment. It is certainly a greater crime at present, than stealing a sheep or a cow; if we estimate crimes by their consequence to society.

About the beginning of October, the sale of cattle in this county was dull; but, towards the end of it, all sold at very good prices; in so much that some, who were slack in providing their winter-beef, (the general practice in this county), found some difficulty at last in finding it.

Excepting a few stormy days, the winter with us has been hitherto remarkably mild, and extremely favourable both to black cattle and sheep, which are all in good order. The housed cattle have also required so little as yet, in comparison to what they used to get, that the anxiety about a scarcity of provender is greatly abated, though not entirely over.

The herring fisheries have not this year done so well as usual. Many of the vessels employed in it, after making little in the Highlands, have gone to try it on the East coast, where it is hoped they will be more successful.

Any meal to be got, has seldom exceeded 2s 6d the peck, in any part of the county, in some places less. In Kintyre, it was agreed upon, in order to keep it in the country, that it should be regulated by the average prices of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Dumbartonshire, deducing freight expences. Bear in the same manner. Potatoes, 1s 3d the peck, of about

50 lb.; lately only a shilling. Butcher meat, 3½ to 4d the lb. English. Butter 16d; cheese 6d the lb. Tron.

Even in the lower and more arable parts of this county, few think of yoking the plough, till after new-year's day. In the upper parts, which are mostly under the sheep-system, tillage has been much neglected for some time, but will probably be in more repute soon, from knowing this year and the last, the great value of good oaten meal.

29th December 1800.

Extract of a letter from Haddington, December 30th.

"In the present distressed times, when the case of the lower ranks requires the commiseration and assistance of the affluent, it gives us pleasure to inform you that a very general relief has been granted to the working people, in the different parishes of this county. A public kitchen has been established in this place, and others, upon a smaller scale, are carried on by individuals, in their respective neighbourhood. Annexed you have the resolutions of the parish of Preston, relative to supplying the people in that district, which, I trust will be deemed worthy of insertion in your Magazine."

At a Meeting of the Heritors and Tenants of the Parish of Preston, East Lothian, held at Linton, upon the 8th day of December 1800; *in consequence of a legal edictal citation from the pulpit, to take into consideration the state of the Industrious Poor, whereof George Buchan Hepburn, Esq. of Smeaton, was chosen Preses, IT WAS RESOLVED,*

1. That, under the present circumstances, it is proper and necessary to supply the whole labourers and trades people of the parish, who are not paid in grain, or whose wages do not exceed two shillings per day, with meal at prices below market rates, according to the extent of their respective families, and the amount of their wages.

2*dly*, That the meal shall be purchased from dealers or millers, in quantities equal at least to what is required for one day's sale, and that no barley shall be mixed with the oats from which the oatmeal is manufactured.

3*dly*, That the sale shall commence on Monday the 22d current, and be regularly carried on every fortnight afterwards till further orders.

4*thly*, That the quantity of oatmeal to be sold to each family, shall in no case exceed one half of the barley meal with which they are furnished; it being evident that oats are a

scarce article this season, and ought to be used in the most economical manner.

5thly, That the industrious poor be ranked in three classes—1. Single women, widows, old persons, those who are unable or cannot procure work, and labourers and tradesmen, whose wages are at, or below 1s 4d per day—2. Labourers and tradesmen of all descriptions, whose wages, whether earned by the day or by pieceework, do not exceed 1s 4d per day—3. Labourers and tradesmen, whose wages exceed 1s 6d, and are at or below 2s per day, in whatever circumstances such are placed—but this class to be furnished only with barley meal.

6thly, That the price of meal to the first class shall, in every case, be 1s 4d per peck, for oat meal, and 1s for barley meal; to the second class, for oat meal, 1s 6d, and barley meal 1s 3d; and to the third class, barley meal only, at 1s 4d per peck.

7thly, That the quantity of meal to be sold to each family for a fortnight's use, shall be,

	Oat Meal. *Pecks.*	*Barley Meal.* *Pecks.*
To a single person	¼	1¼
To a man and his wife	1	2
To a man, wife, and 2 children	1¼	3
To a man, wife, and 3 children	1½	3½
To a man, wife, and 4 children	2	4
To a man, wife, and 5 or more children	2½	4

8thly, That a moderate quantity of both oat and barley meal, at the discretion of the Committee, shall be provided in store, to be sold at the market price to such inhabitants of the parish as are not included in the above classes, in case of necessity; that is, in the event of the ordinary dealers in meal not being able, at any particular period, to supply the demand of the parish.

9thly, That the whole heritors and tenants of the parish, together with the Reverend Mr M'Queen, Mr Andrew Taylor, and Mr Alexander Brown, shall be, and are appointed, a Committee, for carrying into execution the purposes of this meeting, any two of whom to be a quorum, who shall meet in the schoolmaster's house, upon the day and at the hour to which the committee shall have formerly adjourned.

10thly. That a Sub Committee, consisting of Mr George Rennie, Mr Robert Brown, Mr Archibald Knox, Mr Archibald Hepburn, and Mr Andrew Taylor, shall be, and are appointed, for purchasing the meal, who shall give draughts upon the collector for the payment of the same. Mr John Watt, one of the members of the kirk-session, is appointed to receive the meal, and to take charge of the same; and he is particu-

larly enjoined to receive none but what is of the best quality. Robert Hamilton and John Gibb, also members of the kirk-session, are appointed distributors, and Mr William Dickenson, collector and clerk of the sales.

11*thly*, That it be an instruction to the general committee, in the event of the ensuing winter being hard and severe, to furnish the most necessitous of the poor with coals free of any expence.

12*thly*, That, as the Parliament of Great Britain seem to think that the crop, upon the whole, is somewhat short of an average one, and have suggested the propriety of introducing substitutes in place of bread corn, that it be an instruction to the committee, to enquire at Greenock, and other sea ports, where Indian corn, or the meal thereof, or rice, are, or shall be imported, the price thereof per cwt. or otherwise as sold; and to consider how far all or any of these substitutes can be introduced into the consumption of bread corn, in this parish, either pure, or mixed in certain proportions with the native bread corn, with which the meeting have resolved to supply the poor.

13*thly*, That the general committee are hereby invested with discretionary powers to reduce or increase the prices of meal, and the quantities to be furnished to each family, according to the state of markets and other circumstances.

14*thly*, That, in order to defray the loss which shall be sustained from carrying the foregoing resolutions into effect, an assessment of 200l. Sterling shall be made upon the landed property of the parish, payable on or before the 20th current; and the parish is hereby, in terms of law, assessed accordingly.—Mr Dickenson, the collector, is directed to make out a scheme of the division of the said assessment, and to transmit the same to all concerned.

15*thly*, That, in case further aid is necessary for accomplishing the above purposes, the committee shall request the minister to call another legal parochial meeting, at least one month before the present assessment is exhausted, to whom they will present a state of their intromissions.

16*thly*, That the first meeting of the committee shall be held within the schoolmaster's house at Linton, upon Monday the 15th curt. when tickets, signed by the Preses, specifying the quantity and price of the meal to be furnished each family, shall be delivered to those who are to be supplied, and the distributors are directed to adhere strictly to the same.

17*thly*, That these resolutions be inserted in the Courant, Advertiser, and Mercury, for the information of all concerned.

(Signed) GEO. BUCHAN HEPBURN, P.

Extracted from the Minutes by

WILLIAM DICKENSON, Clk.

MORAYSHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

THIS and the two preceding months have been extremely favourable for field-work: an unuſual quantity of wheat has been got into the ground in fine condition, and ploughing in general was never known to be further forward; a circumſtance fortunate in many points of view, more eſpecially as, from the ſcarcity of fodder, the ſtraw of five firlots oats ſells for 35s. and 37s. Sterling, and hay continues at 2s. per ſtone.

The wheat crop, although conſiderably under an average one, turns out rather larger in quantity than was expected; the quality is fine, and it has juſt now ready ſale at 53s. to 58s. per boll.

Barley weighs 18 ſtone, and ſells at 40s. to 46s. per boll. This grain is little ſhort of an average crop, and in conſiderable demand, being much wanted as a ſubſtitute for oats, which are unuſually deficient in quantity and quality, requiring five to eight firlots for a boll of meal, and ſelling at 36s. to 40s. per boll, at five firlots.

Beef is 3½d. to 5d. per lb. and getting ſcarce; mutton ſame price, tolerable plenty and good, owing to the open weather.

Upwards of 4000 guineas was ſubſcribed in October by the Magiſtrates, Incorporated Trades, Guildry, different ſocieties, and ſome individuals in and about Elgin, for the purchaſe of grain and meal, to be retailed at the average price which meal of ſimilar quality, ſhould ſell for at Inverneſs, Banff, and Aberdeen, from which places weekly market letters are received. A Committee were appointed to purchaſe and ſell, with powers to lower, but on no pretence to raiſe, the price beyond the currency of thoſe towns: They were fortunate enough to make pretty favourable bargains, and are now retailing 12 lb. Amſterdam weight of good barley meal at 2s. 6d. and 9 lb. of oatmeal, at ſame price, which is under the average of the above towns, and, at ſame time, the ſubſcribers are kept free of any material loſs. The weekly conſumpt is 25 to 30 bolls, and there is about 1200 bolls now on hand. The Committee are daily adding to their ſtock of grain, and the Bank of Scotland has very handſomely aided their exertions by lending 500l. free of intereſt for twelve months.

A public kitchen is eſtabliſhed at Elgin, out of which the lower claſſes of people get good barley broth ſix days in the week, at a penny per 10 gills; the loſs is defrayed by 80 to 100 guinea ſubſcriptions, and the managers expect to go on till next harveſt.

31*st December*, 1800.

ROSS-SHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

The crops here were upon the whole got safe into the ſtack yard: but, as was foreſeen, they bulked very poorly. It was, however, hoped they would give well to their bulk, but this is found by experience not to be the caſe; they neither turn out the number of bolls expected, nor do the oats yield their uſual quantity of meal. In the eaſtern diſtrict, where the crops are beſt, the tenants will not be able to pay in kind half of their victual rents. In the Black Iſle, Ferndonald, and Strathpeffer, the barn yards exhibit an appearance which, in ordinary years, would be thought poor in the month of March; very few bolls will be paid to the laird, in theſe diſtricts, and many landlords will receive little more grain from their tenants than will pay the miniſter's ſtipend, &c. This county uſually exports conſiderable quantities of grain, but it is generally believed there will be none to ſpare this ſeaſon, and it is even doubtful if there will be a ſufficient ſupply for the inhabitants till next harveſt.

A gentleman in the eaſtern diſtrict informs the writer of this article, that in that quarter they would ſtill have grain ſufficient for ſeed, and the uſe of the inhabitants, provided diſtilling were altogether ſtopped; but this is not ſo eaſily done as might be imagined.

Potatoes were a ſhort crop, and, from being the principal ſupport of the lower claſſes ſince the firſt of Auguſt, are much exhauſted. From the high price and ſcarcity of meal, many families have lived ſolely upon them for months paſt, and numbers have already conſumed their whole ſtock. It is feared the bulk of the people will not be able to ſave ſeed for next crop, and there will be few or none for ſale.

There was a pretty briſk demand in the month of November for cattle, though at low prices, when a great number were driven to the ſouth, and there never was ſuch a ſlaughter in the county for home conſumpt. But though by theſe means the quantity of live ſtock has been conſiderably reduced, yet the remainder will be much pinched for fodder, and ſhould the ſpring prove ſevere, it is feared numbers of cattle will die for want. The weather has been remarkably favourable for three months paſt, the wheat was all ſown in good order, and the ploughing was never farther advanced at this ſeaſon. Oatmeal has been ſelling from 40s. to 50s. per boll, of nine ſtones, wheat is nearly all diſpoſed of; it brought 50s. per boll. We have no fixed price for oats and peaſe. Barley ſells from 42s. to 46s. per boll. Beef and mutton have hi-

therto not been higher than 4s. per boll, but, from the ſcarcity of winter feed, are expected to be high-priced in the ſpring. Raw hides, which formerly ſold at 4d. and 5d. have now fallen to 2d. and 3d. per lb. Dutch weight. Hay has been ſelling at 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. but cannot be had now under 2s. per ſtone. There is a report within theſe few days, that herrings have appeared in great plenty on our weſt coaſt, which, if true, will prove a ſeaſonable relief to the poor.

Upon the whole, though the ſcarcity muſt be ſeverely felt, yet, could a total ſtop be put to diſtillation, ſo as to ſave the grain on hand for food, it is to be hoped that, with the ſupply of herrings above mentioned, a real famine may be prevented in this county, which otherwiſe is much to be dreaded.

December 29, 1800.

Extract of a Letter from Glasgow, January 1st.

"Though the quality of our grain is good this ſeaſon, yet we are ſorry to ſay, that the quantity is turning out far ſhort of an average crop. The fine mild weather ſince harveſt, has been highly favourable for preſerving the fodder, which is a ſcarce article in our neighbourhood, and has admitted a greater breadth of land to be ſown with wheat, than ever was known with us. Cattle are ſelling poorly, and indeed the ſale was never ſo dull, and the reaſon is, that fodder is ſo ſcarce. Our grain markets have been daily riſing ſince harveſt, and annexed you have a ſtate of our prices.

American wheat,	73s.	per boll of 240 lb. Averdupoiſe.
Dantzic, ditto,	72s to 75s.	Linlithgow boll.
Hamburgh, ditto,	70s. to 72s.	ditto.
British, ditto,	68s. to 75s.	ditto.
Barley,	48s. to 54s.	per Stirling boll.
Oats,	35s. to 48s.	per ditto.
Ditto, Ballie,	38s. to 46s.	per ditto.
American flour,	80s.	per barrel.
Flour of our own manufacture,	110s. & 115s.	per ſack.
Beſt oatmeal,	3s. 1d.	per peck.
Beſt barley ditto,	2s. 2d.	per ditto.
Beſt peaſe ditto,	2s. 6d.	per ditto.
Hay,	1s. 6d.	per ſtone, Tron weight.
Straw,	1s.	per ditto.
Beef and mutton,	6d. to 9d.	per lb. of 22 ounces.
Veal	8d. to 10d.	per ditto. of ditto.

EAST-LOTHIAN QUARTERLY REPORT.

Since our last report, the weather has been generally favourable to the operations of the season, and the circumstances under which field-labour has been executed, afford a striking contrast with those of the last year, when very little work was performed in what may be called a husbandman-like manner. During December, however, the weather has been extremely variable; but tillage is so far advanced, that a temporary stoppage of aration is not of material consequence.

The sowing of *winter wheat* was finished under favourable auspices, and the young plants present a healthy and vigorous appearance. Those first sown were in danger of advancing too fast, had they not experienced a check about the end of November, from eight days of severe black frost. The latter sown fields are only putting forth a braird, so they cannot be considered as yet out of danger. The quantity of wheat sown has been nearly the same as in other favourable seasons, but an addition will be made in the spring months, by sowing a number of dry lands now carrying turnips.

The *grain markets* have greatly advanced during the quarter, though they have been tolerably well supplied. Prices have fluctuated much, as will always be the case when matters are out of their common course; but it is hardly to be expected that a steady reduction can happen under the present circumstances. Notwithstanding that every practicable attempt has been made to prevent a waste of fodder, yet the stack yards are comparatively as much diminished as ever was known in this county at this period of the year, and, without the strictest economy, will, in many parts, barely carry on the working and lean stock till grass arrives. The openness and temperature of the winter has allowed greater benefit from the pastures and stubbles than commonly happens; and fat cattle were seldom kept longer out than has been practicable this season.

The *butcher markets* have been well supplied, and prices have not experienced much alteration. Decent fat is worth 7s. per stone, including the offal, but will probably advance in a little time, when the glut upon the market, which always prevails at the latter end of the year, is removed. Fewer cattle and sheep than usual are fed, in this county, upon turnips, from the general failure of this root, though probably the number is as great as during last year. Lean stock decreased in price considerably in November, and the quantity wintered will hardly amount to one half of what used formerly to be kept, which will have a powerful influence upon the spring markets. Many farmers are giving an evening feed of *turnips* or *roota baga* to

their horses, which has answered well, and proves a considerable saving.

The *working people* are, in general, well attended to in every parish, and supplies of meal, at prices greatly reduced, are furnished to them by the heritors and tenants. This, in some cases, is defrayed by voluntary contributions, and, in others, by an assessment upon the landed property, which undoubtedly is the most equitable way of proportioning the burden. So long as these assessments are under the direction of those who are to pay them, there is little danger that they will be attended with similar consequences to those felt by our southern brethren, in the administration of poor rates.

MID-LOTHIAN QUARTERLY REPORT,

FROM OCTOBER 1. 1800. TO JANUARY 3. 1801. INCLUSIVE.

AMID the alarming pressure of scarcity which at present exists, from the occurrence of two defective crops in succession, it is matter of real gratulation, that, from the very favourable circumstances under which the preparations for the succeeding crop have hitherto been carried on, there is at least ground to hope, that a third year of famine will not be added to the direful list; but, that the labours of the husbandman, this season, propitiously begun, will finally be crowned with success. Perhaps, in no season, has there been so much land sown with wheat as in the present, and assuredly in none has it been accomplished in better order; whilst, from the general state of the weather, so favourable for tillage, all other field operations are so far advanced, as must, in some measure, have a tendency in favour of the different spring crops that remain to be sown, from the farmers having less now to do than ordinary, and, of course, more choice as to the time, and more ability to do justice to the subject. Whilst, with satisfaction, we state these circumstances, we must, at the same time, deplore the present high price of grain, and continue to recommend, as we have hitherto done, the most rigid economy in the use of provisions, as the best means for lightening the calamity; for, however brightening the present prospect may seem to be, it is still liable to be obscured; and, at all events, it must be near eight months to come before the ensuing crop, were it even to be the most abundant, can be brought to our aid. With regard to the prices to which every kind of provision has risen, we shall merely note them down *in record to future times*, and with the sincere hope, that no such an occurrence of calamitous seasons will again happen in our day, to occasion such another scarcity.

Prices at the commencement of the year 1801.

	L.	s.		L.	s.	d.	
Wheat from	3	5	to	3	10	0	per boll, 4.114 bushels.
Beans from	2	2	to	2	10	0	ditto, ditto.
Barley from	2	5	to	2	12	0	ditto, 5.962 bushels.
Oats from	1	18	to	2	2	0	ditto, ditto.
Oatmeal from	2	2	to	2	5	0	ditto, 128 lb. Amſterdam.
Potatoes,				1	10	0	ditto, 4 cwt. Averdupois.
Quartern Loaf				0	1	6	69¼ oz. Averdupois.
* Hay				0	2	0	the ſtone, 22 lb. Averdupois.
* Oat Straw	1	4	to	1	5	0	kemple, about 15 st. hay wt.

It is remarkable, however, that butcher meat is comparatively low; best beef may be had at 6d. the lb. and under, but this is owing to the extreme ſcarcity of provender of all kinds, which occaſions every animal, sheep, nolt, or swine, to be killed, that is at all fit for the market.

We muſt, however, put our readers on their guard, in comparing theſe prices with the price in other years of ſcarcity, that reſpect muſt be had to the *value of money*, which has rapidly declined in the preſent day, as may be inferred from the price of almoſt every article in use having greatly advanced, but more particularly the *price of labour* itſelf is now *nominally double* of what it was but 20 years ago, and this, not in conſequence, as ſome people fancy, of the riſe in the price of proviſions, but has been increaſing gradually in proportion as money fell, till about two years ago, when it was nearly as high, in the midſt of plenty, as it is yet.

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* The ſcarcity of Hay and Straw, which cauſes the above high prices, is a ſubject more to be regretted by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, becauſe it is in a conſiderable degree local, theſe articles not being near ſo ſcarce nor dear in the weſtern counties, even in Lanarkſhire, within 30 miles of town. The ſame remark applies to Potatoes, and there can be no doubt that the difference in the price would do more than defray the expence of bringing them from thoſe diſtant diſtricts. But, unhappily, the prejudices ſo ſtrongly and ſo unjuſtly founded againſt *middlemen* or *foreſtallers*, as they are in deteſtation termed, has prevented, and muſt continue to prevent, all ſpeculation in the view of ſupplying Edinburgh with theſe neceſſaries from ſuch a diſtance; for neither the original grower, nor the ultimate conſumer (for all the ſmall quantity at a time which the one can ſpare, and the other has a demand for), will ever undertake it. It muſt be the profit ariſing from an *extenſive* dealing alone, that would allure any perſon to embark in ſuch a buſineſs.

Return of grain, flour, &c. imported and exported at Leith, from the week ending October 18, to the week ending January 3, 1801, converted into quarters in the same proportion as stated in last number, p. 474.

	Qrs.
Imported coastwise	15,459
Foreign	17,382
Total imported	32,841
Deduct exported coastwise	18,880
Remains for Edinburgh, &c.	13,961

Meal sold in Edinburgh market for the last 14 weeks, ending January, 1801: viz. Lothian, 3754; South Country, 30; total, 3784. Wheat sold in Haddington market for the same period, 4053 bolls.

Extract of a Letter from Inverness, January 1.

From the continued fineneſs of the weather since the conclusion of harvest, a greater proportion of land is ploughed than customary at this period of the year; but, for five or six days past we had a severe frost, with a little snow on the coast, and much upon the hills, which has gone off last night, and the thaw promises to be lasting. Much about the usual quantity of wheat is sown in this neighbourhood; indeed, the breadth of ground occupied here, with that grain is at no time great, though, in favourable seasons, the crop is by no means defective either in quantity or quality. Our crop of all grains is fully one-third short of an average, and this county, which generally produces a sufficiency for the consumption of its inhabitants, will this year, notwithstanding every economical exertion, stand in need of eight or ten thousand bolls. Our present prices are, for wheat, 50s. to 60s., barley, 45s. to 55s., oats, 40s. to 45s., the latter, per boll of five firlots, potatoes, 24s., hay, 2s. per stone, beef and mutton, 4d. to 6d. per lb. Fodder is exceedingly ſcarce, and, if the spring is backward, many cattle must starve. A great proportion of our turnips will be eaten by the young stock, consequently the number of fat cattle this winter will be less than common, and prices of butcher meat higher in a few months.

A subscription was lately set agoing for enabling the town of Inverness to sell meal at reduced prices to the poor, which has been liberally encouraged. A considerable quantity of meal and grain is already purchased; and, from the great exertions making, I trust a sufficient quantity for supplying the inhabitants will be soon secured.

In case your Caithness correspondent neglects to send his report, I beg leave to say, that the crop in that district has turned out well, and that the quality of the grain is uncommonly fine. It is supposed, that, after keeping the necessary quantity for their own consumptipn, they will be able to spare 25,000 bolls for supplying other places, which I imagine is more than can be done by any other county in the kingdom of similar extent.

Extract of a Letter from Musselburgh, January 5.

"I am happy to inform you, that our first attempt to establish a corn market has succeeded better than we expected. There were about 328 bolls of grain offered for sale, and it is the general belief that the market will continue to flourish. To encourage people to attend, the Magistrates have very properly advertised, that no custom will be demanded for the first year, and that a proper and secure place, for setting up grain or meal that may remain unsold, will be provided.

"The situation of Musselburgh renders the establishment of a corn market there on each Saturday, a most eligible measure. Grain purchased at Haddington on the preceding day by dealers in the neighbourhood, can in this manner be conveniently resold to Edinburgh people and others who are at a distance from Haddington market, and much trouble will consequently be saved to those who are so situated. It is chiefly in this point of view that Musselburgh market will be of utility to the public."

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in the Neighbourhood of Perth, January 5th.

In this county we have in general exceeded our ordinary sowing of wheat; led on to this from the unusual good situation of the ground at the end of autumn. I am persuaded that very few even of our oldest farmers, remember the land working so well, which undoubtedly warrants sanguine expectations of a good return when followed with a winter season like the present. In this quarter, last October was in point of climate equal to the temperature of our ordinary summer months, which with moderate weather in November, brought on and continued a vegetation beyond any thing I ever saw. In the last week of December, we had a general fall of snow, with most intense frost, but I am happy to say, that the new year commenced with a speedy thaw, which still continues.

The excellent weather we enjoyed after harvest for so long a time, was indeed of infinite benefit to the country at large, and more particularly to those farmers who had young stock in hand, and a scanty supply of fodder in the stack yard. For, had it not pleased *Providence* to bless us with the *latter rain*, which brought grass for the bestial, and thereby saved fodder, I am persuaded many cattle would have perished for want. Now, I trust the fears are in most other places as they are in this neighbourhood,

bourhood, almost removed, and that gratitude will occupy the place of fear in the minds of all.

In this parish, a plan was adopted in the end of the year 1799, for relieving the poor. A fund was raised by the heritors, tenants, and respectable inhabitants, with which meal was bought and retailed out at one half of the cost price, to those who stood in need of assistance, and the good effects were very evident. From starting early, the greatest part of the meal was sold at one shilling per peck. The same plan has been agreed on this season, with the reduction of one third of the cost price, with a view of extending the effects of the fund.

The price of wheat here is rather on the decline, owing, as I suppose, to the generality of farmers threshing out at this time of the year; of course the market is fuller than it was some weeks ago, or that it will continue to be for some time after this. I do not think it proceeds from the crop yeilding beyond what it had the appearance of when stacked—other sorts of grain are starting. On the whole, our prices are always affected by the rise or fall of the London market. It strikes me, we are sooner moved by this cause than what they are at Haddington. Wheat in Perth on Friday last, sold at 63s. per boll, formerly 65s.

Barley	45s. or 48s.
Oat meal	2s. 1Id. per peck, and very scarce
Bear meal	1s. 8d. per do.
Best beef	6d. per lb. mutton 4½d. and 5d.

Extract of a Letter from Grangemouth, January 5th.

The prices of grain here are as follows, Wheat 65s. to 68s. the quality fine. Barley 50s. to 55s. the quality also fine, but the quantity short. Oats 40s. to 46s., and *meal* very poorly. Beans and pease 48s. to 55s. The demand for Oats and Beans has lessened these two weeks in consequence of numerous arrivals of the former, both foreign and coastways, and of the latter from different home ports, but chiefly from London. There is nothing as yet done in this shire to relieve the industrious poor, but a meeting of the heads of families in the parish of Falkirk is to be held in a few days, for the purpose of considering of the best means for alleviating their distresses.

There is little done hereabouts in field labour for spring crops till next month, as, when we have fresh weather at this season, it is usually accompanied with rain, which lays all the low lands under water. We believe the quantity of wheat sown is rather larger than usual. Wheat here, and at Glasgow, is sold by the Linlithgow firlot, but in order that your readers may

may have a comparative view of the *Stirlingshire* measure with the *Winchester bushel*, we inform you that from experience we find that

100 Winchester quarters	of	Wheat	is are	188	Stirling bolls.
100 do.	do.	of Beans or Pease		175	ditto
100 do.	do.	of Barley or Oats		123	do.

Herrings both of the West country and Forth fishings, are presently sold at 42s. per barrel.

Extract of a Letter from a Farmer in the upper part of Aberdeenshire, December 31st.

"The excessive summer drought, occasioned our crop here, as in other places, to be much stinted in its growth. Bear was the only tolerable crop in this district, and upon trial, the grain for the most part is found equal to that of the best years. Oats do not exceed one half of an average crop, and meal very poorly; whatever newsmen may say concerning their great returns. Fodder for *winter keep*, is scarcer than known by the oldest man alive. Upon the upper part of *Dee-side*, the scarcity is particularly felt; indeed, their crop was, literally, worth nothing. Bear and straw is selling at four guineas per Aberdeen boll, (about nine per cent. above Linlithgow), and oats, per same measure, at three guineas, while the quantity of straw is very trifling. I witnessed a roup in Cromar last week, where oats with fodder were thought to sell at four pounds per boll, being sold in bulk without taking a proof.

The present prices of grain and meal are:—Oats, 45s. Beans, 55s. Oat meal, per boll of nine stone, 45s. Bear meal, 32s. Our supply is chiefly from the district of Garioch, where the crop was not so poor as in the higher parts of the county. Turnips, in general, are a good crop; and hay, upon deep soils, was tolerable, but upon thin lands would not cut.

The value of labour is now much reduced: a thing that was much wanted with us. A man who, in 1798, got six pounds for six months work, now cheerfully accepts of forty shillings; and other classes in proportion. What is better, a great deal of more work is done, than when the wages were at a triple rate; a circumstance not only advantageous to the farmer, but of great utility to the public. If good weather, and seasonable tillage, are the means of procuring a good crop, we have every cause to to believe, that this county will be highly favoured in that respect next year, for better weather we never experienced; nor was ploughing ever farther advanced in the end of December, than itis at this day.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in the Middleward of Lanarkshire, December 29th 1800.

As a reader of your Magazine, and a wellwisher to that laudable undertaking, I take the liberty of sending you some observations on the state of the crops, markets, &c. in this part of the country; which, if approved of, may be inserted in your next number.

The wheat crop was very thin, and very little sown last year, owing to the former wet season, but the grain is good. Oats, in general are also a thin crop and little straw, owing to the severe drought following the wet seed time: in the high or moorish grounds the crop is nearer an average than in the lower grounds upon the Clyde; but in these high grounds there was much less land in tillage than was usual, owing to the backward spring and the high price of seed; the grain is good, and yields in general from 12 to 14 pecks of meal per boll, though in some places it is as low as 9 or 10 pecks. Beans are a poor crop in general, but few are sown. Pease are in general a good crop, they have not much straw, but are extremely well podded, and will compensate in some degree for the deficiency of the wheat crop. Potatoes good in quality, but cannot be reckoned much above half an ordinary crop, considering the quantity planted, which was perhaps the double of any former year. When the deficiency of tillage in the high grounds and the deficiency of crop in the low grounds are considered, I think, upon the whole, that we have not more than three fourths of a fair average crop. Hay was in general a very poor crop and extremely high in price, it sold from the rick at 1s. per stone, and is now as high as 1s. 6d. per ditto. The dryness of last summer proved favourable to summer fallow, and the wheat sown, looks in general very promising. It is believed there never was such a general scarcity of fodder as this season, and the consequences to the cattle must no doubt prove fatal, unless the spring turn out very favourable.

The labour of the field, I mean the winter ploughing, is in considerable forwardness; the ground that is ploughed looks extremely well, and bids fair for a good crop to follow; several fields of old grass land are let for ploughing this season, which afford hopes that the ensuing crop will bring relief to the poor and labouring part of the community, by reducing the present high price of grain. Our markets for grain have been much on the advance for sometime past; oat meal retails at present about 2s. 8d. per peck, pease meal about 1s. 10d. bear meal about 1s. 9d., butcher meat from 6d. to 7d. per lb., butter 1s. 3d. and

1s.

1s. 4d. per lb., skim-milk cheese 6d., and new milk cheese 8d. and 8½d. per lb. all Tron weight, potatoes sold at the end of harvest, which is the period of the most general sale, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per water peck, which is a measure of about fourteen Scots pints, and we reckon 16 pecks to the boll; I believe they sell now at 1s. 6d. per peck.

BANFSHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

The weather has been uncommonly favourable for field work; besides the land for barley, turnips, and fallow that have got the first furrow, there is more ploughed for the seed than I ever remember at this season. The very high prices we are getting for victual, does not arise from any deficiency in the crop of this county; for, I imagine, at a fair computation, it will be found equal to an average. The oats, excepting on hot land, are uncommonly productive, and 4 firlots will give eight stone of meal. There is but a small proportion of wheat in this county, and, it comes far short of being a fair crop; in many places not half a one—this is in a great measure owing to the farmers trusting to country seed of last crop, which was so weak, that not above one half of it vegetated. I had on my farm five acres sown with red Kentish wheat, imported last season, which yielded 60 bolls of very fine grain; 20 of which I sold for seed. Summer-fallow was the preparation, with a slight liming of English shells, harrowed in with the seed.—It was laid down with grass seeds in the spring, which flush'd up amazingly. The wheat, in general, is of a very fine quality,—the first that was sold, brought only 40s., but 55s. is now given, and 3l. is spoke of. Oat meal, 40s., with the merchant's allowance for not less than a third part of bear mixture,—a practice you will not much approve of.—It was only 32s. a few weeks ago; bear meal 1s. 6d. per peck 8 lb. Oats, 37s. per boll, and barley 2s. 6d. per stone, if it weighs 18 stone. There has been a great slaughter of cattle this Autumn, which has been the cheapest provision, beef was selling as low as 2d. to 3½; but the best is now advanced to 4d, and 4½ per lb. There are upwards of 30 killed in Banff every week, of a smallish size, from 15 to 30 stone weight, and of all ages; besides some mutton, which sells, the best of it at 4d. Good mutton is now turning scarce, as feeding sheep with turnip, is not generally practised unless on my own farm, and one or two more in this county. I have introduced the Northumberland, or border-side sheep, which are like to do very well; and I can sell them at an earlier period than the sheep we had formerly; sometimes wedders at 18 months

old. The corn yards are diminishing very fast,—not much fuller than they are generally about Candlemas. Oats and straw, at different roups, about three weeks ago, have given 50s, 60s, and some as high as 3l. 7s. per boll; while hay is only selling at 1s. 6d. per stone. The oats were very short, and computed not to exceed 10 stones of straw to the boll. Where *furze* can be had, they are substituting them for fodder,—the labour being far advanced, enables them to bestow more of their time for that manufacture. Some have mills for manufacturing them, but the flail is the most common way. Had not the cattle markets turned brisker towards the end of Autumn, and cleared the country of an over-stock, a number of cattle would have died. Potatoes are not a productive crop, and sell at 16d. and 17d. per peck.

January 6th 1801.

Extract of a Letter from Haddington, January 10th.

"At our market, yesterday, though the quantity of wheat presented was not large, prices declined considerably. The best price was 65s. per boll, but several parcels, of good quality, were sold at seven or eight shillings lower. Buyers were shy, and some remained unsold.

Barley and oats, went of nearly at last weeks prices, the first from 46s to 54s; the latter from 35s to 41s; but the sale of both was rather heavy. We had a full supply of beans and pease, but these articles being much in demand, sold freely at advanced prices, some parcels as high as 50s.

In the appendix to the second report of the Committee of the House of Lords, we notice that the crop of this county has been reported to their Lordships as equal to an average one. We are not acquainted with the source from whence this information proceeded; but if other counties have been reported in the same unfaithful manner, their Lordships must have been grossly misinformed. We are tolerably certain, that the crop is rather below as above three-fourths of an average one, taking all the grains complexly. Wheat is undoubtedly more below an average, for it is believed that the quantity sown, did not much exceed one half of what was sown in the preceding year; therefore, allowing the produce per acre was as good as usual, (which in the greatest part of the county was not the case), still the deficiency must be very great. Barley and pease are the grains nearest an average, but of the latter not many were sown. Oats and beans are both very defective, being scarcely five eighths of an ordinary crop. The former suffered severely by bad weather, in harvest; and the best of the grain was left in the field, the shake being so great."

TWEEDALE QUARTERLY REPORT.

The weather, during the month of October, being for the most part dry, the harvest was got finished in good order, by the middle of that month; but the crop, when brought to the stack-yard, wanted at least one third of the ordinary bulk. A general alarm for scarcity of fodder, induced every farmer to keep his cattle and horses out as long as the weather would permit, which was favourable for that purpose until Martinmas, when a severe fall of snow obliged every one to house them. In several instances, also, there was not only a loss of sheep by smothering in the snow, but also of shepherds perishing by the storm; a circumstance scarce known in this county at so early a period of the winter. The weather, however, both before and since, hath been friendly to labouring, which is farther advanced now, than last season when the sowing began. There will be, however, a very great want of fodder in this county, as the corn is already half threshed; nor do we know where to apply for relief, as none can supply another. The grain, both in quantity and quality, is much superior to last year, especially the bear and pease.—The oats will not be much more than half an average crop, and little of that grain can be spared for market, as the sowing will be much more extensive than last year. The oats give about 6¾ Dutch stone of meal, per boll of 12⅝ Scots pints. The bear about 13¾ stones per ditto. The pease about 13 stone ditto, of 90 Scots pints per boll. The potatoes continued to root well, and are good in quality, though still neither so plentiful nor large as usual. The curl is unknown in this county. The turnip, also, continued to thrive amazingly, and, where properly cultivated, the crop is good; consequently the cast ewes for feeding advanced in price from 8 and 9, to 11 and 12s a head. The aged cattle, in condition, for the same reason found a ready market.

Oat meal sells at present, at	2s. 8d. per peck.
Bear ditto,	1s. 7d.
Pease ditto,	1s. 8d.
Pot barley,	3s. 4d. per stone.
Fresh butter	1s. 2d. per lb. of 23 ounces.
Ewe milk cheese	8d. per lb. of ditto
Clover and rye grass hay	1s. 6d. per stone.
Natural hay	1s. per ditto.
Beef	6d. per lb. Dutch.
Mutton	5d. per ditto, ditto.

January 2d. 1801.

Extract of a Letter from a Farmer, in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, January 2d. 1801.

"The prices of grain are still upon the advance, in Lanark and Carnwath markets. The best oat meal sells at two pounds three shillings and threepence; pease meal 28s.; bear meal 27s. all per boll of 8 stone. Oats are selling from 30s. to 40s.; rough bear 43s. to 44s. and barley bear 48s. to 50s. a boll. Potatoes at 14s. a boll, Linlithgow barley measure. Hay gives 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per stone, and straw 1s. per ditto.

Beef and mutton, at Lanark, are selling from 6d. to 8d. a stone Dutch weight. The months of November and December, were very favourable for getting the summer-fallow lands seed furrowed, and every kind of labour is in great forwardness. The crops, in general, are giving well from the straw; and, if the weather continues fresh and favourable, the scarcity of fodder will not be so much felt as was expected. There is a considerable part of old grass land in this part of the country, that is to be converted to tillage, which will help to reduce the price of corn next season. The proprietors are letting it out from 6 guineas to 8 guineas per acre for one crop. Several farmers in this place are assisting the poor; some are giving them 2 bolls of oat meal, and others one boll, according to their circumstances."

ENGLAND.

LANCASHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

The weather has been lately very wet and cold, so very wet, that many of the lowlands and potatoe grounds have not been got sown with wheat; and so cold, that the thermometer stood frequently at 32 degrees, although no frost. At this date it is as high as 46 degrees, and we have some days like April weather.

Grain of all kinds continues upon the advance. Wheat 25s. per bushel, of 70 lb. Barley 15s. Oat meal 4l. 10s. per load. Potatoes 5s. 6d. per bushel. Cheese 10d. per lb. dropped a little last market day. Pork 70s. per cwt. Store pigs scarce and dear. Fat cattle and calving cows uncommonly high priced.—*December* 22, 1800.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman near Liverpool, Dec. 22.

On Monday, the first of this month, we had a grand agricultural display. Mr Thomas Payne of Orrel, near this place, having taken a large park from the Earl of Sefton, several of his neighbours offered him a day of *boon-service* with their plough teams, and there appeared upon the ground no fewer than 79 teams, each with three horses, prime cattle. A person, who is a competent judge in these matters, valued the teams upon an average, from 6 l. to 70l. each. Ribbons of a yellow ground, with the following inscription: "Standpark, Dec. 1. 1800. Success to the Plough," had been provided to decorate the hats of the plough-boys. These were so liberally distributed among the numerous spectators, that near 1000 yards were given away in the course of the day. About 80 acres of ground, statute measure, were turned over in a workman-like manner, in the space of six hours.

A cold collation was provided at the farm-house in the park, with liquor for those who chose to partake, and a dinner was likewise provided at Orrel for the workman and the spectators. Among the provisions for that day were half a beast, weight 360 lb. 3 bullocks, 2 hams, 2 neats tongues, 4 dozen of pork pasties, 36 large wheaten loaves, about 12 lb. each, 6 bushels of potatoes, and turnips, cabbage, carrots, &c. in abundance. It is supposed that near 400 mouths were fed there on that day; for, liberally as every thing was provided, scarce a morsel was left unconsumed. About 8 barrels of ale and 10 gallons of spirits were drunk.

Upon the side-board stood a jugg, 22 inches in length, and 4 feet in circumference, provided for this particular occasion by the agricultural surveyor of the county, and therefore called "Mr Holt's Cream Jugg," which held nearly a quarter cask of ale, and was decorated in large and splendid characters with the same inscription as on the ribbons. From the contents of it (some excellent ale) the following toasts were drunk

The King and his Friends.
The Earl of Sefton.
The Rector of Sefton.
The Rector of Walton.
Success to Agriculture.
Success to this day's labour.
Thanks to those Friends who have so generously stepped forward with their assistance on this occasion.
May the Stand Park answer the wishes of the present tenant.
A reward for industry, and relief to the poor.
May every lad who drove a plough this day turn out a good farmer.

The bells of the parish churches of Sefton and Walton ushered in this festive day, and continued ringing during a great part of the performance. The whole concluded with general harmony and satisfaction.

I beg leave to acqaint you of a method practised by Mr Payne, the gentleman above noticed, to destroy the crows, who commit great havock in seed-time, and upon the potatoe crops. Having ſuffered repeated depredations upon his potatoe plantations by these birds, who with their strong beaks dug them out of the earth after they were planted, Mr Payne baited a common spring rat trap with a potatoe set, which answered his purpose completely, by securing the voracious plunderers.

NORTHUMBERLAND QUARTERLY REPORT.

The weather through the month of October having proved more favourable than in September and August, the late crops were much better harvested than those that were earlier; but in all situations, except on real good loamy soils, the crops are very defective, both in respect to straw and quantity of grain, when put in comparison with a fair average crop; the quality is also considerably below par, the wheat and barley crops being so much injured by the rains in the latter end of August and beginning of September, that very few samples are produced perfectly clear of sprouted grains. The millers complain also of the oats producing less meal than the usual quantity, particularly the Angus and common oat. When these circumstances are combined with the scanty appearance of the stack-yards, there is reason to apprehend that the produce will turn out less than was generally estimated. The bulk or number of stacks are little more than half the usual quantity, and, though the very high prices may hold out the prospect of making up the deficiency, yet it is to be feared many farmers are so unfortunately circumstanced, that, after deducting seed, and reserving a sufficiency for their families, servants, and horses, they will have little to carry to market, particularly oats; as they seem to be the most defective crop of any—and this will be more generally the case with those, whose farms consist mostly of very dry light lands, or the opposite extreme of wet and clayey soils; but the occupiers of firm, fertile, friable loams will certainly reap great advantages from the unprecedented high prices.

We had about three weeks of very favourable weather in October for getting in the wheat seed, and the young crops of wheat never looked better, nor had a more promising appearance.

The turnip crop is probably the best, or most generally good ever remembered, yet they have been sold at high prices, from 6l. to 9l. an acre. This is, in part, owing to the great alarm for want of winter fodder, from the great deficiency of straw, and of course the young cattle are allowed a larger proportion of turnips.

Potatoes, in respect to quantity, are somewhat below an average crop, and, what is very peculiar upon many dry soils, that in general grow them mealy and fine, they are this season quite the reverse, clammy, sad, and watery.

In respect to fat stock, there are fewer sheep upon turnips than has been for many years, but the number of cattle is increased; the deficiency in sheep is owing to the great demand for the southern markets in the autumn. The prices of beef and mutton at present are from 6d. to 6½d. per lb.

Prices of Corn.

	s.	d.		s.	d.	
Wheat,	16	0	to	17	6	per bushel Winchester.
Barley,	7	6	to	8	6	ditto.
Oats,	6	0	to	7	0	ditto.
Pease,	10	0	to	10	6	ditto.

Oatmeal, mixed with barley, 4s. 0d. per stone.
Ditto, unmixed, - - 5s. 0d. ditto.
Potatoes were at 2s. 6d. per bushel, but are now got up to 4s. 6d. and 5s.

We have had fine fresh open weather of late, and the ploughing and other agricultural operations are in great forwardness.
December 27, 1800.

Extract of a Letter from Stafford, December 29th.

"I am truely concerned to inform you that the price of grain advances every succeeding market day, and that there is no prospect whatever of a fall. At our last market, wheat sold from 23s. to 25s. Barley from 15s. to 16s. Oats 10s. to 10s. 6d. Pease from 18s. to 21s. all per bushel of 38 quarts. I informed you in my last, that a number of the principal farmers convened by the Mayor, had agreed to sell their wheat at 21s. per bushel, but this agreement, as might have been expected, was not long adhered to, for while I and others were selling at that price, others were getting 18s. so the matter dropt. As the price of bread is now almost out of the reach of the poor, we have raised by subscription a sum of money for purchasing butcher meat, and potatoes to be distributed in quantities proportionally to the size of their families, which will enable them to purchase bread with the money received from the parish. As for rice as a substitute, it is, like every other thing, advanced to

double price. I have some this day from London which stands me 6d per lb. I have been considering how herrings would answer, which are strongly recommended by government, and beg to hear in course at what price they could be purchased at Leith, or other parts in your neighbourhood.

My turnip crop has turned out greatly superior to what I expected, many of them weigh 18 lb., and they have enabled me to feed my numerous flocks and herds, thereby saving much hay for other purposes. I lately gave employment to many poor people in drawing them, and have topt and tailed about 130 cart load, which I hope to preserve as food to my ewes at lambing time. I have lately had a few fine lambs from Dorsetshire ewes.—My general sort is of the large Leicester breed, which do not lamb till about the end of March.

Under the present circumstances when the population of the country is so much increased, and bread even so scarce, it is truly surprising that no measures are taken to bring a great portion of what are called waste lands into cultivation. Within a mile of me there are near 20,000 acres of land under this description, a great part of which is of as fine quality as any in the county, and with the aid of the plough and the harrow is capable of carrying excellent crops. I hope, when the Imperial Parliament meets, these matters will occupy their serious consideration, at least I knew few that deserve it more.

The wheat lands have a most pleasing appearance, and in this county the prospect of that crop is a good one. This day the weather set in severe, accompanied with snow, which will stop the progress of the young plants, and prevent them from running too much to straw.

Extract of a Letter from Yorkshire, January 1st.

I hope the means used by Parliament will tend to relieve the middle and lower classes of the people, for they are really in a distressed state. My landlandy, who has a large estate in this district, has sent circular letters to all her tenants, requesting them to supply her with a certain quantity of wheat, in proportion to the size of their farms at market price, which, with the greatest liberality, she has ordered to be sold to the middling, and lower classes at reduced prices. She has likewise ordered a quantity of soup to be distributed gratis, which will prove highly useful.

At Ripon market, this day corn has gone off rather slowly, and I understand that at Leeds and Knaresburgh, the prices of all sorts have fallen.—Prices at Ripon, wheat 17s. to 18s. Maslin 14s. 6d. to 16s. Barley 10s. 6d. to 11s. Oats 6s. 6d. to 7s. 10½d.. and beans 10s. 6d. to 14s. all per Winchester

bushel. Beef per lb. from 4½d. to 6½d. Mutton 6d. and 6½d. Pork 8d. and 9d. Veal 9d. and 9½d. Fat cattle sell at present from 6s. 3d. to 7s. per stone of 14 lb. sinking the offal.

Extract of a Letter from Hull, December 31st.

Since my last, this market has been principally supplied with foreign grain, and that at a very high rate. An alteration took place at last weeks market.—Buyers were rather shy, and yesterday the supply being above the demand, a reduction of nearly 20s. upon the wheat was the consequeuce, and a farther decrease is confidently expected. Many samples both English and foreign were shown, but a few parcels only were sold for immediate consumption, at the following prices. English wheat 130s. to 135s. Petersburgh, and other foreign wheats 100s. to 120s. barley 72s. beans 84s. pease 112s. oats 42s. all per quarter. At Beverly market on Saturday, prices of grain were also lower. Prices of other articles here are lint-seed 62s. to 66s. rape seed 46s. to 50s. per quarter, lint-seed cakes 14l. 14s., rape ditto 7l. 7s. per ton. Beef by side or quarter, 40s. per cwt., by pound weight 5d. to 7d. mutton 6d. pork 7½d. and very scarce, veal 7d. and 8d., butter 15d., potatoes per peck 1s. and 1s. 2d. Milk 2d per quart. Ale 5d. per ditto. Hay 105s. to 110s per ton. Wheat straw 50s. and 52s. 6d. per ditto, delivered at any place in town.

Imported here from September 1st to December 20th, as per custom house books, 26,700 quarters of wheat, 715 quarters of beans, 379 quarters of pease, 600 quarters of rye, 8364 quarters of oats, 4620 quarters of barley, 2272 stone of wheat flour, 120,557 bushels of lint seed, and 88,488 bushels of rape seed. A number of the ships detained in Russia, were destined to this port with corn.

In consequence of the high prices, the poor are in great distress, and rather turbulent. A riot took place on Saturday night last, when much mischief was done in the market and at several mills. We are all quiet now, but the military and civil powers are held in readiness to act at the shortest notice.

The subscription for relieving the poor has been very liberal. Good soup is delivered out at 1d per quart which stands the subscribers 2½d. Bread is also given gratis or at a small charge: It is intended to extend the relief to rice, flour, coals and potatoes, and a loan is raising to purchase, and sell them out again at prime cost, independent of the soup and other articles. Herrings from Scotland are also soon expected, which will encrease our quantity of food. About 12,000 quarts of soup are given out weekly in *Hull* and *Scullcoats*.

The appearance of the country is very favourable. Wheats look healthy and strong. Grass, from the late mildness of the season, saves hay. We have now frost accompanied with snow.

NORFOLK QUARTERLY REPORT.

The autumnal season has been exceeding fine, and the wheat seed was got finished in the best manner. The grass lands still retain a beautiful verdure, and the sheep upon them are thriving extremely well. Hay has advanced a little since last report, as the quantity shipped from this district has been uncommonly large. The turnip crop is good.

There has been no general plan adopted in Norfolk for relieving the labouring people; in some places the wages have been advanced proportionally to the rise of grain, and in others wheat meal is sold at reduced prices, while many do neither but allow 9d or 1s per head, according to the number of a family, in addition to the usual price of labour. At Lynn, the porters wages have been advanced, as also piece work, and a voluntary subscription is made, which already amounts to 800l. to furnish soup, potatoes, meal, &c. at reduced prices to those in want, which is a great relief, and occasions the people to remain very peaceable.

Any opinion respecting the proportion of the crop on hand must be vague and uncertain; but I believe in general, that one half in most instances is already delivered. The grain turns out drier and better in quality than was expected, but in other respects the report in last number will be found as nearly correct as could be made out.

Prices of grain at present are: Best wheat, from 130s. to 140s.; best barley, 84s. to 90s.; second sort from 60s. to 80s.; white pease, 110s. all per quarter of 8 Winchester bushels; beef, from 5s 6d to 7s per stone of 14 lb.; mutton, 6½d per lb.; pork, 8d.—*Dec.* 30.

LINCOLNSHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

Wheat is now sufficiently ascertained not to exceed two-thirds of an average crop, and, of course, prices have risen to a most exorbitant rate. Barley and oats may be considered equally good as in common years, but the great demand for the former as a substitute for wheat, and the quantity of the latter shipped for Scotland, has kept up the prices higher than formerly expected. Beans and peas are so bad as to prove, in many places, scarce worth threshing. Prices are—Wheat, from 110s. to 130s.: Barley, 70s. to 84s.: Oats, 45s. to 46s.: Rye, 90s. to 96s.: Potatoes, from 6d. to 9d. per peck.

Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. has sent a large quantity of rice to be retailed out to the poor at 3d. per lb. and says, when properly boiled with hogs lard, or any other sort of fat, that one pound of rice will produce five pounds of nourishing food. Sir Joseph also intends to furnish us with herrings, to be sold at reduced prices. The prevailing idea among gentlemen of property is, to use no kind of bread but what is made of rice and potatoes, and, in partticular, to curtail the quantity of corn given to horses.

The *rot* among sheep, which excited great apprehensions, has proved not so extensive as was dreaded, and has occasioned no serious loss. Sheep, in general, are doing as well upon turnips as the most sanguine minds can expect. Hay turns out of fine quality from the stack, and the appearance of the young wheats is so good, that well-founded hopes may be entertained of a plentiful crop of that grain being procured next season.

The butcher markets are plentifully supplied. Beef sells from 6s. to 6s. 6d. per stone of 14 lb.; mutton, 6d. to 7d. per lb.; pork, 8d. to 10d.——A bill for draining, embanking, and enclosing above five thousand acres of our fens, is preparing to be introduced into Parliament, in which about 45 parishes are concerned.

December 31st.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentlemen in Lincolnshire.

" By a letter from a friend who resides near Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, dated November 4th, I am informed concerning the prices of grain, &c.; which will likely be an acceptable article for your Magazine. Wheat, at that time, was 15s. per bushel, rye, 6s. 6d.; barley 10s.; oats 3s. 6d.; beef 6d. to 8d. per lb.; pork 8d. to 10d.; mutton 8d. to 10d.; veal 8d. to 10d.; butter 1s. 3d. to 3s.; a turkey 7s. 6d.; a goose 7s. 6d.; milk 8d. per quart. Potatoes 3s. to 6s. Turnips 3s. 6d.; both per bushel."

Extract of a Letter from a Farmer in Wales, December 31st.

" Owing to a continuance of favourable weather at the conclusion of harvest, our wheat seed was got finished in excellent order; and the appearance of the young plants was, in no season, more promising. I believe there is a greater quantity than usual sown, and the stock on hand at harvest being small, the demand for seed wheat has, in a great measure, been the chief cause of that article being at present so scarce. The wheat this year, though not bulky upon the ground, yields well in the barn, and weighs heavier than usual; and the little barley we

have is also good. Oats are universally small in the grain, and many of them are required to fill the measure. Here we chiefly sow black oats, and find this variety answer better than any other, for the white oats degenerates very fast, and require a frequent change of seed.

Our prices are still advancing. Wheat, in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, sells as high as 50s. per bushel of 20 gallons, (2½ bushels Winchester). Barley at 32s. Oats 21s. per our measure, which for this grain is equal to four Winchester bushels; but, in Brecknock and Carmarthen shires, prices are even higher. The maltsters cannot procure a sufficient supply of barley, and many of them are using oats. Potatoes turned out a scanty crop, and from being digged up when in full growth, they are not so dry and mealy as usual, though they will probably answer well for seed. They are now selling at 3s. 6d. and 4s. per peck. Very few turnips are with us this season; this root having generally failed. The weather has here been uncommonly favourable, which has occasioned both hay and straw to fall in price; the former may be bought at 4l. per ton. Butcher meat of all kinds is dear for this time of the year; beef from 4½ to 7d. according to quality; mutton nearly the same; veal 8d. and 9d.; small pork 8d; large pigs for bacon weighed whole, 9d. and 9½. Fresh butter 1s. 3d.; salt ditto, 1s. 1d. Best cheese 10d.; skim milk ditto, 7d. and 8d.; all per lb. Auverdupoise weight.

YORKSHIRE QUARTERLY REPORT.

The crops of wheat, barley, and oats, turn out good on the dry and well managed soils; but generally indifferent on the strong and ill managed ones. Beans are mostly in a failing state, and yield very little. A great proportion of all sorts of grain suffered much damage, from the sprouting occasioned by the wet weather in harvest, particularly the barley, which some bad managers left in swathe, to their astonishing loss; a circumstance more to be regretted, as the quality of the grain appeared excellent before this misfortune.

The growing wheats look extremely well; some of them on the warmer soils, rather too forward in growth; much more ground is under that crop than the usual proportion; so much so hereabouts, that the speculations begin to turn towards the *barley and oats* of another season. The fallows for turnips, have, as usual, almost universally received their first plouhging; what are called summer fallows, are here generally deferred till after the Spring seed time, when the strong soils turn up dry and broken: whether or not this be good husbandry in the main, I leave to better judges.

Turnips, in this neighbourhood have generally failed, not being more than the fourth of a crop, on an average; near York, however, and in some other parts, they are more abundant than usual, which, when we consider the drought of their growing season, is remarkable. A considerable quantity of the after-grass still remains on the ground, and there appears no great deficiency of hay and straw; yet hay is sold at 5l. per ton; and from the great expence of stall food, it is feared that beef, in the Spring months will be scarce. Corn is out of the question, and lintseed cakes are at 16l. 16s. per ton.

Potatoes have yielded less than an average crop, they are now selling at the price of 4s. per bushel. Hops were unproductive and remain dear.

Apples, though so plentiful last year, are, at this season, scarce and dear in the extreme. I have long observed that we have seldom two abundant seasons of this fruit in succession.

The price of all sorts of grain in these markets is excessively high; it is at present in a trifling degree declining, which it is hoped may continue to be the case for some time, since, from the openness of the winter, and other causes, it has never had the usual fall since the harvest. The best wheat 18s. 6d. Barley 12s. Oats 6s. per bushel.

Fat cattle, since Martinmas, have been sold at comparatively moderate prices, but as the markets have been rather overstocked, from the prospect of scarcity of food for the stall, they are now resuming an advanced price. Lean cattle are at reasonable rates. Sheep, in good condition, are much in demand, and dear.

Horses of all sorts are low, and out of demand, from the high price of their food.

Beef, mutton, and veal, are at 7d. per lb. Pork at 8d. per ditto.

Subscriptions are made for the poor in the great towns; and in country parishes, the relief is generally laid on the rates, which are tripled and quadrupled accordingly. From 2s. 6d. to 3s. per week, per head, is allowed by the justices to poor families, the deficiency of their earnings to be made out by the overseers.

January 7th.

OBITUARY.

At Kilduff, near Haddington, Robert Walker, Esq. of PrestonTower.—Mr Walker was formerly farmer at Athelstaneford, which place he removed from in 1797, at the conclusion of his lease.

At Groat-hill, Mr John Ferme, farmer.—Mr Ferme formerly possessed the farm of Hairhead near Cranshaus, and was connected with a number of the principal farmers in East Lothian. He was justly considered as a respectable character, and is much lamented by those who were acquainted with him.

Lord Rokeby, an Irish peer.—His Lordship had a large estate in Kent, and was said to be such an enemy to the war, that he would not allow his tenants to sow barley, least they should promote it by the excises upon malt and ale.

At Ayton Law, Berwickshire, Mr John Cockburn, a most respectable man, and a very intelligent, industrious, and successful farmer.

At Norwood, near London, Mr Alexander Dudgeon, merchant in the Strand.—Mr Dudgeon was the eldest son of Mr John Dudgeon, late farmer in Tyningham, East Lothian, and had resided in London and the neighbourhood for more than 30 years. His death is greatly lamented by his numerous friends.

At Tillipowrie, in Strath-Tay, Mr John Livingston, farmer, brother of the late, and uncle of the present Mr Livingston, merchant, Cross Causeway, Edinburgh.

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our warmest acknowledgments are due to the Rev. Mr F. for his valuable communication upon *monopoly* and *forestalling*, inserted in this number. We will at all times be proud to rank such a respectable character among our correspondents.

A series of interesting papers respecting American husbandry are received, which will be inserted in our next number.

We are rather at a loss to comprehend what *Scotus* wants to be at. He first condemns *summer fallow* altogether, and is for blotting it out of the calendar, and afterwards acknowledges its necessity in several cases. We shall take the opinion of our readers upon this matter.

The Letter from "*A Novice*," came too late for this number, but shall afterwards have a place.

The handsome manner in which several of the quarterly reports and letters of intelligence have been communicated, excites in our minds more grateful sensations than we can find words to express. Sensible that this department of our work depends chiefly upon the exertions of our friends, we solicit a continuance of their favours, which will meet with the strictest attention.

Observations upon Mr Bailey's Comparative View of the Expence of Oxen and Horses for Farm Labour, are received.

An Enquiry by an eminent Political Economist, concerning the Quantity of *Bread Corn* required to supply the consumption of the inhabitants of Great Britain, will appear in our next; together with a review of the Argyleshire agricultural survey.

No. 6 will be published on Monday, the 13th of April.

*** It is in contemplation to publish a *third edition* of the *First Number*. Gentlemen who are in want of full setts, will therefore please give in their names to the publisher.

☞ Some unforeseen circumstances have prevented the *Title Page* and Index from being completed, but they shall be delivered with next number.

N. B. The Subscribers are respectfully informed, that, owing to the recent regulations of the Post Office, magazines cannot any longer be sent through that channel. Every exertion will, however, be used to forward them by coaches or carriers; but gentlemen at a distance will be so good as apply to their respective booksellers for their copies. English readers will be supplied by Messrs. Longman and Rees, London.

Errata in this Number.

Page 17, last paragraph, read as follows:

"*Thirdly*, As the farmers in England universally complain that tithe taken in kind is an intolerable grievance, your correspondent's arguments on this head will appear rather paradoxical."